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Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

The World's Daily Newspaper | R | London, Thursday, April 10, 1997 | No. 35,492

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U.S. Tells Mobutu: It's Time for You to Go

By David B. Ottaway
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration Wednesday formally called on President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, one of America's closest Cold War African allies, to resign to facilitate a peaceful settlement to his country's political crisis.

"Mobutuism is about to become a creature of history," said Michael McCurry, the White House press secretary, in unusually blunt language.

[The U.S. comments came as Zaire's second-largest city fell to rebels and clashes occurred in the streets of Kinshasa, the capital. Page 2.]

Mr. McCurry said the United States had conveyed the tough message through undisclosed diplomatic channels "because the support for President Mobutu is not sufficient to lead Zaire into the next chapter of its history."

Marshal Mobutu was "well aware" of the administration's position, he added.

The White House spokesman made clear that, while Washington supported a negotiated solution that will include agreements on an interim transitional government and eventually new elections, it did not foresee any role in such a process for Marshal Mobutu, who for 25 years during the Cold War served as a pillar of U.S. policy in Africa.

Mr. McCurry declined to say whether

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Jack Dabaghian/Reuters

Prime Minister Etienne Tshisekedi, center, being seized by the police as he led a march of thousands Wednesday in Kinshasa after martial law had been declared. He was returned unharmed to his residence.

Rights Curbs Seen For Hong Kong

Future Chief Seeks Restrictions On Protest and Political Groups

By Keith B. Richburg
Washington Post Service

HONG KONG — Warning that unnamed foreign forces might destabilize Hong Kong and threaten China's national security after July 1, the territory's future government unveiled specific proposals Wednesday to restrict public rallies and protests and to ban political groups with overseas links.

Michael Suen, the top policy aide to the chief executive-in-waiting, Tung Chee-hwa, said the current, more tolerant rules needed to be changed because of a February edict by the National People's Congress in Beijing. "It's not for me to defend the decisions" of the People's Congress, he said.

The revisions were necessary, Mr. Suen said, because "we must also strike a balance between civil liberties and social stability."

The most notable change would be the notion of "national security" as a justification for banning groups and for prohibiting protest rallies. Critics have objected that the "national security" concept is not specifically defined and might be used to restrict groups that disagree with mainland policies.

The public will be given until the end of the month to comment on the proposed changes. The legislation then goes to the shadow legislature that was picked by Beijing. The new rules are to take effect after midnight June 30, when China officially takes charge.

Mr. Suen and other officials of the incoming government tried Wednesday to paint the changes as modest, saying they still preserved Hong Kong's basic rights and freedoms.

"I think it strikes the right balance," said C. Y. Leung, a property surveyor and member of Mr. Tung's executive council, which endorsed the package of changes. "It's quite liberal."

But others vehemently disagreed. The British governor, Chris Patten, said the proposals "turn the clock back on the freedoms which Hong Kong enjoys."

Top legislators from Hong Kong's biggest party, the Democrats, met with Mr. Tung early Wednesday and also assailed the proposed changes.

The legislation could curtail the activities of such groups as the Democratic Party, which raises money abroad, and the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements in China, which Beijing has labeled as subversive for its support of Tiananmen Square democracy advocates.

One change would require any group of 30 or more peoples wanting to stage a protest to apply seven days in advance and obtain permission — or a "notice of no objection" — from the police. Under current law, groups need only notify the police of protest plans.

Another change would require groups wishing to operate here to register with the government. The authorities could refuse registration to any group "in the interests of national security or public safety, public order, the protections of public health or morals, or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others."

The government after July 1 would also have the power to restrict any group that "solicits or accept funds from overseas." Political organizations would be prohibited from having ties with foreign groups that control or influence the local organization's decision-making.

The fund-raising provision would directly affect the Democratic Party, whose leaders just returned from a trip to the United States and Canada that raised more than 2 million Hong Kong dollars ($260,000).

In the draft legislation, Mr. Tung's office has included organizations based

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Asians alarmed by China's opposition to U.S. forces. Page 4.

Prodi Wins On Albania, But Coalition Shows Cracks

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ROME — Prime Minister Romano Prodi won a crucial vote in Parliament on Wednesday to send an Italian-led security force to Albania but at the cost of a damaging rift with his hard-left allies that almost brought down the government.

The Chamber of Deputies approved the force by a vote of 503 to 85, with seven abstentions.

President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro swiftly told Mr. Prodi to put his government to a confidence vote in Parliament. A statement issued by Mr. Scalfaro after a one-hour meeting with Mr. Prodi said the president had asked the prime minister to "promote the indispensable political clarification" through a statement to Parliament.

Mr. Prodi was forced to turn to the center-right opposition to support the force. His allies of the Refounded Communist Party, whose votes he needs for a governing majority, refused to back it, saying anti-Italian feeling would jeopardize Italian troops.

The split on Albania has highlighted the vulnerability of Mr. Prodi's coalition to the Communist vote on a difficult domestic agenda, including a drive to reform the welfare state to prepare Italy for Europe's planned single currency.

Coalition parties now want a thorough review of the alliance to assess whether the hard left can be brought into line on key economic policies.

"What we have to do now is seek a confidence vote on the government's program," said Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini, leader of the centrist Italian Renewal party. "The vote must be on precise issues and not general matters."

Mr. Prodi had to pay a price for the opposition backing, announcing he would place his government's future in Mr. Scalfaro's hands. It was a tacit admission that his government had no majority and could have led to his resignation.

Mr. Prodi staved off an immediate

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AGENDA

Russia Sees Paris As Signing Site

Moscow has told the French it wants the signing of a NATO-Russia declaration to be held in Paris. For the French, this could be part of a trade-off in which they accepted the U.S. position on who holds the alliance's Southern Command in Naples. U.S. officials had hinted that Washington would be happy with an arrangement that gave France a conspicuous role in the new departure with Moscow. Page 6.

Japan Raids Office Of Nuclear Company

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto of Japan ordered raids Wednesday on a state corporation in charge of reprocessing nuclear fuel after officials admitted that they had falsified a report about Japan's worst nuclear accident.

"I am so angry I could not utter a single word," he said. "We will get third-party consultants to conduct a full probe." Page 4.

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The IHT on-line http://www.iht.com

Fed Deals With (Romantic) Bonds

A Senior Official's Relationship With Banker Raises Touchy Issues

By Peter Truell
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — What happens when a top Federal Reserve Board official who helps set the nation's interest rates becomes romantically involved with a leading investment banker?

For Gerald Corrigan — a partner at Goldman, Sachs & Co. who is a former president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York — and Cathy Minehan — the current president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston — that question has taken on new urgency since another former official of the U.S. central bank raised questions about the propriety of their relationship.

Mr. Corrigan said in an interview that he and Ms. Minehan were aware of the potential pitfalls and had gone to extraordinary lengths to avoid them.

Starting in the fall of 1995, Mr. Corrigan said, he and Ms. Minehan worked out arrangements designed to ensure that their relationship did not present either of them with a conflict of interest.

The romantic relationship between Mr. Corrigan and Ms. Minehan began a little less than two years ago, Mr. Corrigan said in the interview Tuesday. Although the relationship has not been a secret one, John LaWare, a former Fed governor, was quoted in The Boston Globe this week as questioning whether it was in the best interest of the Federal Reserve. Contacted by telephone Tuesday, Mr. LaWare, who retired from the Fed in May 1995, said of the couple, "I have the highest regard for their integrity, but the very fact of their relationship runs the risk of creating impressions that there may be conflicts of interest."

Mr. Corrigan, 55, joined Goldman Sachs in January 1994, six months after resigning from the New York Fed, whose president holds a permanent voting seat on the Fed's policy-making Open Market Committee.

The Open Market Committee consists of the seven Washington-based Fed gov-

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Buoyant Dollar Defies G-7 Strategists

By Paul Blustein
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Two months after the world's major economic powers suggested they wanted to brake the dollar's ascent on foreign-exchange markets, the dollar has gained further ground against both the yen and the Deutsche mark.

The movement is causing analysts to question whether the authorities have the will — or the power — to prevent a further surge in the U.S. currency, which would hurt the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers.

On Wednesday, the dollar touched a 55-month high of 126.970 yen before retreating slightly. At 4 P.M. in New York, it was at 126.805 yen, up from 126.335 yen Tuesday. The dollar also rose to 1.7255 Deutsche marks, its highest level in just over three years against the German currency, from 1.7155 DM on Tuesday.

The dollar's rally shattered the previous high for the year of 124.70 yen, reached just before the meeting of the Group of Seven finance ministers in Berlin on Feb. 8, where participants signaled that the dollar's rise over the past two years had gone far enough.

The dollar's renewed strength is evoking some unease among economists about whether the authorities can keep it under control.

A strong dollar benefits consumers and helps hold inflation down by lowering the cost of imported goods, and it reduces the cost of overseas travel for Americans. But it hurts U.S. exporters and some manufacturers by making their products more expensive — and less competitive — overseas.

The Dollar

New York	Wednesday @ 4 P.M.	previous close
DM	1.7255	1.7155
Pound	1.62	1.626
Yen	126.805	126.335
FF	5.8045	5.7625

The Dow

	Wednesday close	previous close
-45.32	6563.84	6609.16

S&P 500

change	Wednesday @ 4 P.M.	previous close
-5.5	760.57	766.07

Another concern raised by the dollar's rise is the prospect of a flare-up in trade tensions between Japan and the United States.

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Evidence of a New 'Intifada'

As the Peace Process Falters, Public Opinion Hardens

By Barton Gellman
Washington Post Service

JERUSALEM — With stones and rubber bullets flying and new wounded falling at the funeral of the recent dead, growing evidence suggested Wednesday that a violent uprising has resumed alongside the deadlocked Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

A hardening of public opinion on both sides, as political contacts near collapse and daily confrontations close their third week, marks what increasingly looks like a turning point in the three-year experiment in negotiated peace.

Renewing old grievances and nursing self-images of victimhood, decisive blocs of Israelis and Palestinians in opinion surveys have turned against their attempt at coexistence or concluded that it has no prospect of success.

In an effort to halt the slide toward more violence, the Clinton administration has brokered secret contacts between Israeli and Palestinian security establishments.

In Tel Aviv on Saturday night, the U.S. Embassy's CIA station chief brought Ami Ayalon, head of Israel's Shin Bet internal security agency, to what was described as a tense meeting with three of his Palestinian counter-

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Wendy Sue Lamm/Agence France-Presse

Israeli soldiers and Palestinian protesters exchanging rubber bullets and rocks as violence continued in the streets of Hebron on Wednesday.

Fiat's 'Tough Guy' Chairman Is Found Guilty of Corruption

By Alan Friedman
International Herald Tribune

The chairman of Fiat, Italy's biggest corporation, was convicted Wednesday of falsifying the company's accounts, of committing tax fraud and of illicit financing of political parties.

Cesare Romiti, 73, who took over as the chief of Fiat a year ago from Giovanni Agnelli, was sentenced by a Turin court to an 18-month suspended prison term. Mr. Romiti was also barred, by court order, from holding corporate office.

The conviction of Mr. Romiti, whose nickname in Italian business is *Il Duro*, or "The Tough Guy," brought to an end one of the highest profile cases since the start of Italy's anti-corruption drive in 1992. It is also the most prominent conviction of a public figure since the sentencing of former Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, who fled to exile in Tunisia.

Also convicted with Mr. Romiti was Francesco Paolo Mattioli, 57, Fiat's chief financial officer, who received a 16-month suspended jail sentence.

Prosecutors in Turin argued successfully that Mr. Romiti and Mr. Mattioli had approved a series of slush funds to provide for Fiat's illegal financing of political parties and had then falsified accounts to hide the payments.

While Mr. Romiti has denied all wrongdoing and is expected to appeal the conviction, he did tell magistrates in 1993 that some companies within the Fiat group might have paid bribes to obtain some contracts. Then, under questioning in 1995, Mr. Romiti disclosed to the Turin prosecutors that there had been some "unjustified expenses." He refused to describe these payments, telling investigators that "if I revealed them, that could jeopardize the life of this company."

The court order barring both men from continuing in their jobs at Fiat created a potentially enormous dilemma for the Agnelli family, which remains

Investors Shy From Ukraine, Citing Rampant Graft

By Raymond Bonner
New York Times Service

KIEV — Despite hundreds of millions of dollars of American aid, Ukraine is stumbling badly in its transition to a free-market economy, and diplomats and foreign executives blame rampant official corruption, which they say is remarkable even by the standards of the region.

In recent weeks, several major companies have abandoned Ukraine after government actions that diplomats and businessmen say favored companies in which Ukrainian officials hold personal stakes.

The situation has become so serious that some American officials say the $250 million in annual U.S. aid to the country should be cut off, or made conditional on showing definite progress on curbing corruption.

"It's all rooted in one thing — total, unequivocal corruption," David Sweere, an American businessman, said of the obstacles facing foreign companies trying to operate here.

Mr. Sweere said the government's confiscation last autumn of all grain produced in the country cost him $5 million, because farmers who owed him grain were forced to turn over their harvest to Ukrainian authorities instead.

Mr. Sweere, who has been trying to break the government's stranglehold over Ukraine's potentially lucrative agricultural sector, said he has received death threats.

In a confidential cable provided to The New York Times, the U.S. Embassy termed one case involving the abrupt termination of a broadcast license held by an American company "a study of corruption."

It was, the embassy added, "illustrative of the serious difficulties" facing American businesses trying to operate in Ukraine, including such giants as Cargill, Monsanto, and Coca-Cola.

"Serious difficulties," American officials and

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Newsstand Prices

Bahrain	1.000 Din	Malta	55 c.
Cyprus	C. £ 1.00	Nigeria	125.00 Naira
Denmark	14.00 D.Kr.	Oman	1.250 Rials
Finland	12.00 F.M.	Qatar	10.00 Rials
Gibraltar	£ 0.85	Rep. Ireland	IR £ 1.00
Great Britain	£ 0.90	Saudi Arabia	10.00 R
Egypt	£E 5.50	S. Africa	R12 + VAT
Jordan	1.250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 Dirh
Kenya	K. SH. 160	U.S. Mil. (Eur.)	$ 1.20
Kuwait	600 Fils	Zimbabwe	Zim.$30.00

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Unfulfilled Promise / **Terrorized by Ambitious Father**

Golfing Prodigy Driven to Despair

By Larry Dorman
New York Times Service

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida — This is the year for prodigies in sports. Martina Hingis, 16, is the youngest No. 1 player in tennis ever. Tara Lipinski, 14, is the youngest world champion figure skater in history. Tiger Woods, 21, will try this weekend to become the youngest player to win the Masters. And a 14-year-old girl named Natalie Gulbis qualified for a tournament at Lincoln, California, last week, becoming the second-youngest golfer to play in a Ladies Professional Golf Association event.

But not all young geniuses see dreams come to fruition. There is a flip side, a shadowy world of unfulfilled promise, of physical and emotional abuse by an ambitious parent, of mental institutions and nights spent shivering in fear under piers. One can find this side on the end of a dusty, fenced-in driving range next to a little golf course on the west end of this South Florida city.

This is where Beverly Klass, 40, now toils, giving lessons at a public course called Turtle Bay. She is patiently explaining the necessity for a weight shift to her noon appointment, Dorothy Isaacs, a recently widowed golf nut with a slight case of the reverse pivots.

This would look like any scene on any driving range anywhere in America but for a singular personal history.

Almost 31 years ago, when she was 9, Beverly Klass was playing on the LPGA Tour. She was a 4-foot-9-inch fourth grader from Encino, California, who could drive the ball 223 yards (200 meters) and who, in her pro debut in the 1965 Dallas Civitan Open won by Mickey Wright, shot a couple of 88s.

"You know," she said, looking down the range at the wind-whipped flags, "that was a good time, a happy time. I was doing something I loved doing."

There are pictures from that era, black-and-white snapshots of a smiling little girl in saddle shoes and a floppy hat, swinging a cut-down, 25-inch club with a move through the hitting area that is textbook. She is standing next to Jack Nicklaus in another picture.

These are the images the world had of Beverly Klass then. The happy prodigy. She giggled and smiled her way through an appearance with Johnny Carson on "The Tonight Show," just a few weeks after she won the National Pee Wee tournament by 65 strokes. She wowed them on "The Mike Douglas Show" before anyone knew who Tiger Woods was.

She could play, make no mistake. Paul Runyan, a legendary teacher, saw her at age 5 and called her swing the best he had ever seen for a child that young. Her future, if properly handled, seemed limitless.

All this early success prompted her father, Jack Klass, a building contractor and sometime Hollywood talent scout, to dream of fame for his daughter. When the organizers of the National Pee Wee event noted that her 65-stroke victory was so disheartening to her fellow competitors that it might be a good idea to keep her away the following year, Jack Klass made a decision: His daughter would turn pro and play on the LPGA Tour.

To this day, Ms. Klass defends the decision, saying she believes that "if I'd been allowed to stay out there and compete for a couple of years, I would have been beating three-fourths of the field."

But the LPGA had other ideas, and rewrote its eligibility rules, effectively ending the experiment after four tournaments during which Ms. Klass made one cut and earned one check for $31.

Her father was furious. He sued the LPGA. A settlement was reached, and Beverly, who eventually regained her amateur status, won 25 amateur events around the Los Angeles area.

IT WAS then that the beatings began. She started to become interested in things other than golf, and her father would not tolerate her skipping practice.

"He would beat me if I didn't practice," she said. "He'd use a belt on my back. Sometimes I would bleed. The belt didn't happen a whole lot, but there was a lot of yelling and screaming."

Mr. Klass, who died in 1981, terrorized everyone in the family, Ms. Klass said, including her mother and two sisters. But Ms. Klass bore the brunt of his outbursts. Her father would abide nothing short of perfection. Often, when she wasn't playing well in a tournament, he would scream at her from the gallery.

The less she wanted to play, the worse the abuse got. When she was 13, Ms. Klass said: "I went out and took karate because I was trying to protect myself from him. The whole family lived in fear. The whole family either got rewarded for my good golf or punished for my bad golf."

She added: "He would yell, scream, yell at my mom, hit my mom, hit me, drag my sisters across the floor by their hair, stuff like that. I had to do something."

She did the only thing a 13-year-old kid could do. She ran away. In a two-year span, Ms. Klass estimates she was either kicked out or ran away from home between 200 and 300 times. Once she lived under a pier in Santa Monica and worked in a hot dog store. The cycle was always the same: If she played and practiced, the abuse stopped.

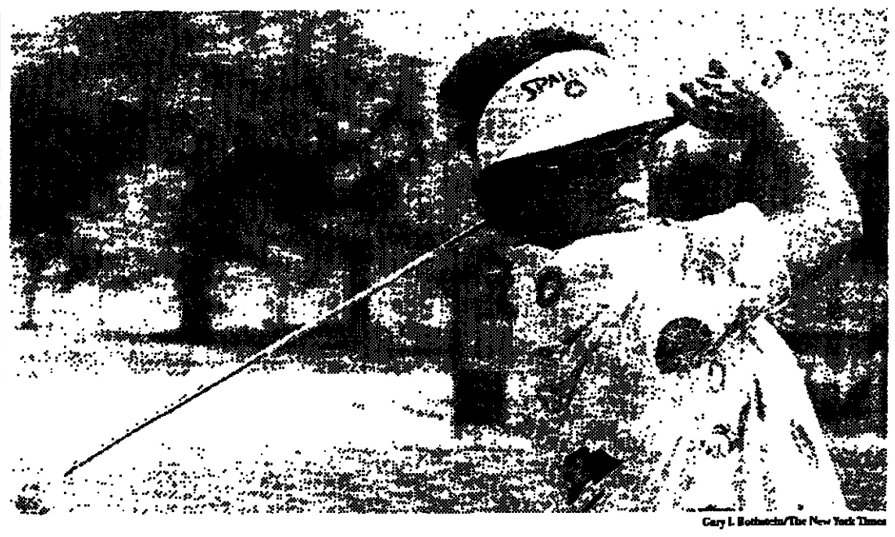
In one particularly bizarre incident, when Ms. Klass was 15, her father checked her out of a mental hospital in Camarillo — where she had been sent under a court order after refusing to go home — and flew her to Japan for an exhibition against the Japanese star Chako Higuchi. She remembers playing quite well, losing the exhibition on the last hole but winning a driving contest with a 260-yard drive.

By the time she qualified for the LPGA Tour in 1976, Ms. Klass had been through more than most players experience in a lifetime. Her game, though, was not ready for the tour. She showed flashes of brilliance, but was inconsistent.

Ms. Klass never made it big on tour. In 12 full seasons, her best finishes were ties for second in the 1984 West Virginia Classic and San Jose Classic. In 1988, she quit. Now Ms. Klass sometimes dreams of a comeback.

But she has her life straightened out. She has her teaching job, with a number of enthusiastic students who willingly pay $30 for a half hour, $50 for an hour.

But mainly she has found some peace. "I forgave my dad. It took a long time. I've had to have counseling, but I did. I came to realize that it was all he knew. He grew up in an orphanage and, in a lot of ways, he just didn't know any better."



Gary I. Rothstein/The New York Times

The New York Times

Beverly Klass, 40, earns her living giving golf lessons on a public course, but when she was 9 she made her debut as a professional, and could drive the ball 223 yards.

Mobutu's Foes Defy Martial Law

Lubumbashi Falls to Rebels

By Howard W. French
New York Times Service

KINSHASA, Zaire — The violent showdown in Zaire entered the streets of the capital Wednesday as troops loyal to President Mobutu Sese Seko attacked supporters of the new prime minister who has bluntly challenged the president's faltering rule.

The intensifying chaos in Kinshasa came as the rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of the Congo seized control of the southern copper- and cobalt-mining capital, Lubumbashi.

With tens of thousands of supporters of Prime Minister Etienne Tshisekedi converging on central Kinshasa in requisitioned minivans and by foot, Marshal Mobutu followed up on the state of emergency he had decreed late Wednesday by naming a general to head a new military government.

Defying Marshal Mobutu's state of emergency, Mr. Tshisekedi, a longtime opponent of the president, was briefly arrested as he led a march on the prime minister's offices here to carry out his vow to begin governing Zaire, one week after being named to the post.

Sporadic gunfire rang out throughout the city Wednesday morning, and Mr. Tshisekedi and his supporters were repeatedly showered with tear gas barrages along the route from the prime minister's residence in the Limete suburb to the seat of government in downtown Kinshasa.

Arriving near the prime minister's office, where hundreds of soldiers led by the president's son, Kongolo Mobutu, choked the streets awaiting him, Mr. Tshisekedi, looking grim and determined, climbed out of his car.

Within moments, however, mayhem broke out amid a heavy tear gas barrage as armored personnel carriers plowed through the scattering crowd. Mr. Tshisekedi, 64, who briefly stumbled, was lifted into a white van by soldiers who then sped off with him. It was not clear if there were any casualties.

Mr. Tshisekedi, who was not detained, was driven back to his residence by Marshal Mobutu's son, who is an army captain. At his home in Limete, the opposition leader immediately met with aides, who vowed to step up their struggle to force Marshal Mobutu from office.

If they were angered by Mr. Tshisekedi's arrest, his supporters were not intimidated by the soldiers and regrouped after each charge at the crowd by the army.

"The power is in the street now," said one demonstrator. "Mobutu is finished, and if he doesn't want to understand, we'll bring Kabila here to explain it to him."

Laurent Kabila is the leader of Zaire's highly successful rebellion, which has swept much of the countryside in recent months and on Wednesday captured the country's second-largest city, Lubumbashi.

Marshal Mobutu's appointment of General Likulia Bolongo to head a new martial government came as the rebellion was streaking to impressive new gains throughout the countryside.

General Likulia is reputed to be a hard-line officer and Mobutu loyalist.

The fall of Lubumbashi followed 24 hours of stiff resistance by Marshal Mobutu's Presidential Guard.

Speaking in the central diamond mining capital of Mbuji-Mayi on Tuesday, Mr. Kabila vowed to take the capital shortly.

An aide to Marshal Mobutu said that many within Marshal Mobutu's ruling circle were planning to leave the country immediately.

"Today we were chasing ordinary people through the streets like it was nothing," said a military officer close to the president. "Tomorrow, when it is Kabila's men, the games will be over, and I don't want to be here."

Hundreds Massacred, UN Is Told

By Paul Lewis
New York Times Service

UNITED NATIONS, New York — A UN investigator has told the organization's Human Rights Commission in Geneva that the rebels in Zaire have rounded up and killed hundreds of Hutu refugees and local civilians since beginning their insurgency last year.

In a 16-page preliminary report, Roberto Garreton, the commission's special investigator for human rights in Zaire, listed sites of 40 mass graves of refugees and civilians who he said apparently had been killed by rebels led by Laurent Kabila in northern and southern Kivu Province.

He called for the creation of a special UN commission to investigate the killings and to bring those responsible to justice. He said such a commission should include forensic and ballistics experts and the means to exhume the mass graves he said he found during a brief visit to Zaire last month.

In his report, Mr. Garreton acknowledged that information about the killings was "frequently inadequate and even contradictory," but he said that "as a rule, the acts denounced actually occurred." He added that atrocities are continuing in Zaire "with complete impunity."

"It is indisputable that the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of the Congo is far from fulfilling its commitments to respect human rights," he said of the group led by Mr. Kabila.

In another report, issued at the end of last year, Mr. Garreton wrote of "many reports of atrocities committed" by the rebel group, which habitually separates men from women and children.

He also wrote that "all reports indicate" that the rebel forces kill people rather than take them prisoner.

In preparing the latest report, Mr. Garreton said he visited three mass graves himself and based his evidence of others on interviews with refugees and local people.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Strikes Hit French Air Traffic

PARIS (Reuters) — Strikes disrupted French air traffic on Wednesday and unions threatened more widespread action to challenge the government's drive to push through labor market reforms and cut state spending.

Cockpit crews from British Airways' French units Air Liberte and TAT began a 48-hour strike over pay and conditions that unions say will be affected by a merger of the two.

TAT, a domestic airline, said it would guarantee a third of its 90 scheduled flights while Air Liberte, which flies around the world, would maintain two-thirds of its 35 daily flights.

Changi Lands Best Airport Honor

GENEVA (Reuters) — Singapore's Changi and Britain's Manchester have been voted the world's top two airports by long-haul airline passengers, the International Air Transport Association said Wednesday.

Changi's new terminal ousted Manchester, undergoing major reconstruction, from the top spot it held last year in a poll based on the views of 55,000 people and covering 54 airports, IATA said.

Dozens of short-staffed restaurants in Cyprus's Ayia Napa and Protaras holiday resorts will shut down from Monday onwards to protest a government ban on issuing work permits to foreigners, owners said Wednesday. They say they need foreigners because as they can't find enough local staff. *(Reuters)*

Taxicab riders in Washington may have to pay increased fares under regulatory changes approved by Mayor Marion Barry. But drivers aren't happy about the changes because they would have to undergo new training and get rid of old cabs. *(AP)*

The European Union launched an initiative Wednesday aimed at more than halving the total of 45,000 deaths and 1.6 million injuries caused every year by road accidents in EU countries. Unless radical steps were taken, one EU citizen in 80 will die in their car, Neil Kinnock, European Transport Commissioner, said. *(AFP)*

To Our Readers

Because of a national strike by printers and newspaper distribution workers, the International Herald Tribune, among other publications, is not available Thursday in France.

German Passport Holders heading for Singapore in April. 50% off at the stylish boutique hotel in Orchard Road, Singapore.

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Defying UN, Iraq Flies Pilgrims to Jidda

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

JIDDA — An Iraqi Airways jetliner carrying 104 pilgrims flew to Saudi Arabia on Wednesday in defiance of UN sanctions imposed in 1990.

Saudi security forces in trucks and cars surrounded the Ilyushin airliner shortly after it landed at King Abdulaziz International Airport in this Red Sea port city, an airport worker said.

The Saudi interior minister, Prince Nayef ibn Abdulaziz, said that the flight had entered Saudi airspace without clearance.

It was the first international flight sent by the Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein, since the UN Security Council banned flights in and out of the country after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The airliner was parked on an isolated spot of the tarmac, far from the special terminal designated for pilgrimage flights, the airport worker said. He spoke on condition his name not be used.

Prince Nayef said at a news conference that the Iraqi passengers — 40 women and 64 men, all over the age of 50 — had been allowed to disembark and to complete customs and passport formalities.

The Iraqis are among more than 1 million Muslims arriving for the annual hajj, or pilgrimage, to Islam's holiest sites, at Mecca and Medina.

Diplomats in the kingdom say Saudi Arabia, as custodian of Islam's two holiest shrines, cannot be seen as denying any Muslim with a valid hajj visa the right to perform the pilgrimage.

The Iraqi jetliner took off from the Rashid air base, 15 kilometers (9 miles) south of Baghdad.

At a departure ceremony, two sheep were slaughtered on the tarmac — an Arab custom to safeguard travelers — and blood from the animals was smeared on the fuselage of the plane.

Footage of the ceremony was broadcast repeatedly on state-run Baghdad television.

A Foreign Ministry statement carried by the official Iraqi press agency, INA, said there was nothing in the UN sanctions resolutions "that legally prevents this flight, especially because it is aimed at performing a religious duty."

Iraq's dispatch of the jetliner mimics action by the Libyan leader, Colonel Moammar Gadhafi, who for three years running has sent a passenger jet from Libya to Saudi Arabia in defiance of UN sanctions for Libya's refusal to surrender two suspects in the 1988 bomb attack on a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland.

A Libyan plane carrying pilgrims landed in Jidda on March 29. The UN Security Council said Friday the flight was "totally unacceptable" and a "clear violation" of the sanctions. *(AP, Reuters)*

Germany on the Alert Before Iran Verdict

The Associated Press

BERLIN — German officials have braced for possible terrorist attacks and warned citizens to delay travel to Iran in advance of Thursday's verdict in a trial that examined whether Iranian leaders are behind the killings of dissidents abroad.

German security sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the likelihood of attacks by Islamic radicals depended on whether the court accepts the prosecution's contention: that Iran's powerful spiritual leader, Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei, and President Hashemi Rafsanjani ordered the murder in Berlin of an Iranian-Kurdish opposition figure in 1992.

The accusations, made in court late last year, prompted angry denials from Tehran and days of anti-German street protests in Iran.

In Berlin, prosecutors have been assigned armored cars and security has been increased around them. Sharpshooters will be posted around the court building, where Iranian opposition groups plan to demonstrate while the verdict is being read.

The trial of five men, an Iranian and four Lebanese, began three and a half years ago.

Over 246 days of testimony, it has developed into what is being called the first judicial examination in the West of charges that Iran supports terrorism and has been directly involved in killing dissidents abroad.

Washington has sought to isolate Iran internationally on those grounds, while Germany has pursued what it calls a policy of "critical dialogue" with Tehran, raising issues of terrorism and human rights while continuing to do business.

Although commercial ties have declined recently, Germany is still Iran's largest Western trading partner, with annual trade exceeding 2.8 billion Deutsche marks ($1.7 billion), according to the German-Iranian Chamber of Commerce in Hamburg.

Shahin Gobadi, a spokesman for the National Council of Resistance of Iran, which is based in Paris, said the trial should "put this whole issue to rest."

If the judges implicate the Iranian regime in the killings, as many observers expect, "it makes it very difficult for Germany to defend that 'critical dialogue' policy any more," Mr. Gobadi said.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman, Martin Erdmann, said the government's reaction would depend on how far the court goes.

"We are preparing to review the entire spectrum of relations with Iran, if necessary," he said in Bonn.

Iran's foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, said Wednesday that Iran understood that the German judiciary was independent from the government although he criticized what he termed the "politicization of the case."

"No friendship can be one-sided," he added.

WEATHER

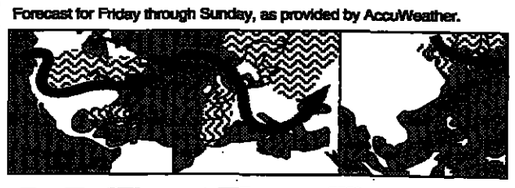
Europe

	Today High	Today Low/W	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low/W
	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Algiers	19/66	12/53 c	18/64	13/55 sh
Amsterdam	15/59	7/44 s	9/48	2/35 sh
Ankara	1/34	-12/11 sf	2/35	-4/25 c
Athens	8/46	3/37 pc	14/57	7/44 s
Barcelona	19/66	7/44 s	17/62	10/50 s
Belgrade	11/52	5/41 c	13/55	5/41 pc
Berlin	13/55	5/41 c	11/52	0/32 pc
Brussels	17/62	8/46 s	11/52	2/35 r
Budapest	13/55	7/44 c	18/64	5/41 pc
Copenhagen	8/46	4/39 sh	7/44	0/32 r
Costa Del Sol	19/66	11/52 c	19/66	11/52 c
Dublin	14/57	7/44 pc	13/55	7/44 pc
Edinburgh	14/57	6/43 pc	10/50	3/37 pc
Florence	19/66	9/48 pc	21/70	9/48 pc
Frankfurt	12/53	3/37 c	10/50	-3/27 sh
Geneva	16/61	7/44 pc	19/66	5/41 s
Helsinki	3/37	3/37 sn	3/37	-3/27 sn
Istanbul	3/37	0/32 pc	8/46	6/43 c
Kiev	4/39	1/34 pc	6/46	1/34 r
Las Palmas	23/73	17/62 s	23/73	17/62 pc
Lisbon	18/64	13/55 sh	17/62	13/55 r
London	13/55	8/46 s	14/57	4/39 c
Madrid	18/61	6/43 sh	19/66	7/44 pc
Mallorca	14/57	7/44 s	18/61	11/52 s
Milan	21/70	9/48 pc	22/71	8/46 s
Moscow	0/32	-1/31 pc	4/39	0/32 sn
Munich	15/59	3/37 pc	18/61	-0/29 pc
Nice	18/64	11/52 pc	19/66	12/53 s
Oslo	12/53	-1/31 sh	11/52	-0/29 c
Paris	18/66	8/46 s	16/61	2/35 s
Prague	14/57	3/37 pc	11/52	-4/25 r
Reykjavik	6/43	2/35 c	8/46	6/46 c
Riga	7/44	4/39 sn	5/41	-1/31 r
Rome	16/61	8/41 s	16/61	6/43 s
St. Petersburg	2/35	2/35 sn	5/41	1/34 sn
Stockholm	7/44	1/34 sh	3/37	-5/24 sn
Strasbourg	18/64	7/44 s	18/64	1/34 s
Tallinn	3/37	2/35 sn	3/37	-5/22 sn
Tbilisi	4/39	1/31 c	6/43	-6/22 c
Venice	18/64	9/48 s	21/70	9/48 s
Vienna	18/59	6/43 pc	17/62	3/38 pc
Warsaw	9/48	4/39 sh	8/46	-1/31 r
Zurich	15/61	6/43 pc	17/62	2/35 s

Middle East

Abu Dhabi	34/93	18/64 s	29/84	13/55 s
Beirut	8/46	2/35 sh	11/52	4/39 pc
Cairo	17/62	4/39 pc	18/64	9/48 pc
Damascus	7/44	-4/25 c	10/50	-1/31 s
Jerusalem	7/44	-3/27 c	8/46	1/34 pc
Luxor	28/79	9/43 s	27/80	12/53 s
Riyadh	32/89	16/61 s	30/86	14/57 s

Forecast for Friday through Sunday, as provided by AccuWeather.



Jetstream — Unseasonably Cold — Unseasonably Mild — Heavy Rain — Heavy Snow

North America
A storm will bring a mix of rain, ice and snow to the central and southern Plains and Midwest Friday. Unsettled weather will reach the East by Saturday and last through Sunday. Unseasonably cold air will hold tough over the Rockies and northern tier of the nation through the weekend.

Europe
A strong storm will bring windy and unsettled weather to eastern Europe into western Russia Friday into Saturday. Much of western Europe, including London, Paris and Amsterdam, will stay mainly dry and mild. Turning cooler in Rome this weekend, while Madrid stays warm with a shower possible.

Asia
Cool to chilly across much of Japan through the weekend with showers possible nationwide Friday, then mainly in the north this weekend. Mainly dry in Beijing and Seoul with a moderating trend into the weekend. Warm and humid in Hong Kong and Singapore with a thundershower possible each day.

North America

	Today High	Today Low/W	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low/W
	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Anchorage	8/46	-1/31 s	10/50	0/32 s
Atlanta	20/68	9/48 s	20/68	13/55 c
Boston	8/46	-1/31 s	8/46	2/35 pc
Chicago	4/39	1/34 sf	9/48	0/32 sh
Dallas	20/68	14/57 t	21/70	9/48 sh
Denver	-1/31	-9/22 sn	6/43	-9/16 sn
Detroit	6/43	-1/31 pc	10/50	2/35 sh
Honolulu	29/82	22/68 pc	29/82	20/68 pc
Houston	28/79	19/66 c	28/79	14/57 c
Los Angeles	20/68	11/52 s	22/71	8/46 pc
Miami	29/82	21/70 pc	27/80	21/70 pc
Minneapolis	3/35	-5/24 sf	4/39	-5/22 c
Montreal	-3/27	-9/16 pc	3/37	-5/24 pc
Nassau	24/75	18/64 pc	27/80	19/66 pc
New York	8/46	3/60 s	11/52	6/43 sn
Orlando	25/79	17/62 pc	27/80	17/62 pc
Phoenix	28/79	11/52 s	24/75	11/52 s
San Fran.	17/62	7/44 s	17/62	8/46 pc
Seattle	13/55	1/34 sh	12/53	3/37 pc
Toronto	-1/31	-5/24 pc	7/44	-2/29 sh
Vancouver	10/50	-3/27 pc	8/46	0/32 sh
Washington	10/50	1/34 s	13/55	7/44 sh

Asia

	Today High	Today Low/W	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low/W
	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Akasay	21/70	9/48 pc	23/73	8/46 pc
Bali	32/89	22/71 pc	32/89	23/71 pc
Bangkok	33/89	23/73 s	33/89	23/73 pc
Beijing	20/68	7/44 s	22/71	9/48 s
Bombay	30/86	18/64 s	29/84	19/66 s
Calcutta	32/89	22/71 pc	32/89	19/66 pc
Chiang Mai	33/89	21/70 s	33/91	22/71 pc
Colombo	31/88	23/73 pc	30/86	23/73 pc
Hanoi	28/82	24/75 sh	27/80	22/71 sh
Ho Chi Minh	33/91	23/73 pc	29/84	23/73 c
Hong Kong	29/79	22/71 sh	24/75	21/70 sh
Islamabad	33/89	16/61 s	33/89	18/64 s
Jakarta	29/84	23/71 r	29/84	23/73 c
Karachi	35/95	19/66 s	34/93	20/68 s
Lahore	33/89	22/71 sh	32/89	23/71 c
K. Kinabalu	31/88	22/71 t	31/88	22/71 pct
Manila	33/91	21/70 s	33/88	21/70 pc
New Delhi	35/97	18/61 s	37/98	19/66 s
Phnom Penh	33/89	22/71 sh	33/91	23/73 pc
Phuket	33/89	23/73 s	32/89	23/73 pc
Rangoon	33/91	23/73 s	31/88	24/75 pc
Seoul	18/61	7/44 s	14/57	4/39 s
Shanghai	18/64	9/48 pc	19/66	10/50 pc
Singapore	31/88	23/73 t	31/88	22/71 pc
Taipei	21/70	21/70 r	22/73	18/64 r
Tokyo	19/67	4/39 s	13/55	1/34 s
Vientiane	27/80	24/75 sh	29/76	23/73 sh

Africa

Algiers	18/61	11/52 sh	18/59	9/48 sh
Cape Town	27/80	14/57 s	27/80	14/57 s
Casablanca	21/70	13/55 s	22/71	13/55 pc
Harare	30/86	11/52 r	30/86	11/52 s
Lagos	32/89	23/73 pc	31/88	24/73 pc
Nairobi	29/79	16/61 sh	24/75	15/59 t
Tunis	13/55	6/43 sh	17/62	8/48 s

Latin America

Buenos Aires	23/73	14/57 r	23/73	14/57 pc
Caracas	27/80	22/71 c	29/84	23/71 pc
Lima	29/79	19/66 c	23/77	19/66 pc
Mexico City	24/75	11/52 c	25/77	11/52 s
Rio de Janeiro	22/71	16/59 pc	23/71	17/62 pc
Santiago	31/88	8/46 s	29/84	12/53 s

Oceania

Auckland	17/62	13/55 sh	16/64	13/55 pc
Sydney	21/70	14/57 pc	22/68	14/57 pc

Printed by Newsfax International, London. Registered as a newspaper at the post office.

THE AMERICAS

Stuck in the Capital: Injury Throws Clinton Presidency Off Pace

By Alison Mitchell
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton is, above all, a man of motion. He darts across the country, cramming event upon event well into the night. He consoles those afflicted by disaster, beguiles curious audiences and draws energy from the throngs who find magic in a presidential visit.

In fact, the touring White House has been a hallmark of this presidency — and travel was expected to loom ever larger in a second term that has none of the grand legislative goals that characterized Mr. Clinton's first years in office.

But in the weeks since Mr. Clinton tripped late at night on a staircase outside the home of the golfer Greg Norman and ripped a tendon from his knee, his injury has slowed the perpetual motion machine that is the Clinton presidency.

And this has posed a predicament, since so much of Mr. Clinton's conception of his job consists of being a circuit rider through the states, urging others to take action, such as adopting education standards or employing welfare recipients.

In this preacher presidency, Mr. Clinton relies heavily on his energy, his travels and physically imposing presence to lend power to his words and make up for his limited ability to sway a Republican-controlled Congress.

Mr. Clinton long ago gave up such sweeping legislative plans as overhauling health care.

Beyond his search for an agreement on balancing the budget, his agenda is more minimalist, geared to a time when voters have lost faith in government activism. But the knee injury has altered the president's pace — quite literally.

After a recent outdoor ceremony at the White House to promote a chemical weapons treaty, Mr. Clinton had to inch slowly on crutches up a driveway to the Oval Office past reporters who questioned him along his way.

At one point, he lifted a crutch and pointed wistfully toward the White House putting green, which he is barred from using.

A trip to California in late March was scrapped.

A state visit to Mexico has been delayed several weeks, into May, and combined with a compressed version of what was to have been a 10-day tour of the Caribbean and Latin America.

Although Mr. Clinton is to begin traveling again next week in a measured pace that will accelerate with several foreign visits in May, his aides say that the White House has pretty much shelved more presidential stops in state capitols this spring to promote education standards.

White House advisers, accustomed to a demanding leader with little interest in sleep, have had to adjust their scheduling to accommodate the president's somewhat reduced energy level. Mr. Clinton now begins his work day one hour later, at 10:15 A.M., after physical therapy, aides say.

Some of Mr. Clinton's aides worry that, with months to go before the president is fully mobile, the hard times are still ahead.

This is particularly so because Mr. Clinton draws his political energy from crowds, especially the enthusiastic throngs that provide a respite from the troubles that plague him in Washington.

"He feels trapped here," an adviser said. "He's often asked about the White House gates, whether they are to keep people out or keep him in.

"At some point, there's nothing else like just getting out and being with people."

For now, White House officials say that Mr. Clinton remains in good humor.

"He has not gained weight, and probably lost a little weight," Michael McCurry, the White House press secretary, said recently.

He noted that Mr. Clinton had stayed on a low-fat diet to counter his inactivity and was lifting weights to improve his upper body strength.

U.S. Court Clears Ban on Preferences

By William Claiborne
Washington Post Service

LOS ANGELES — In a strongly worded decision that reflected the politically charged nature of affirmative action, a federal appeals court has upheld California's voter-approved ban on preferences based on race and sex.

The three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco found "no doubt" the measure was constitutional.

The judges unanimously ordered the lifting of a lower-court injunction blocking enforcement of Proposition 209. The initiative, passed by voters in November, made California the first state to attempt to roll back affirmative action by barring preferential treatment and discrimination in public hiring, contracting and education.

"A system which permits one judge to block with the stroke of a pen what 4,736,180 state residents voted to enact as law tests the integrity of our constitutional democracy," the court declared, referring to a Dec. 23 ruling by Judge Thelton Henderson of U.S. District Court that the initiative was probably unconstitutional.

The newest decision is scheduled to take effect in 21 days, but affirmative-action advocates said they would ask a larger panel of the 9th circuit to continue the ban on enforcement while the case is appealed.

President Bill Clinton said that if states are precluded from taking special measures to help disadvantaged people, "I think that will be a mistake." Mr. Clinton, who argued against Proposition 209 and had the Justice Department oppose it on appeal, added, "I think we'll all have to regroup and find new ways to achieve the same objective."

The judges emphasized that the equal-protection clause of the 14th Amendment was intended to end government discrimination based on race. They said it would be paradoxical if California voters had violated the clause by requiring all people to be treated equally and barring any preference based on race or sex.

"After all," the ruling said, "the goal of the 14th Amendment, to which the Nation continues to aspire, is a political system in which race no longer matters."

"As a matter of 'conventional' equal-protection analysis, there is no doubt that Proposition 209 is constitutional," the court ruled Tuesday. "The ultimate goal of the equal-protection clause is to do away with all governmentally imposed discrimination based on race and gender. When the government prefers individuals on account of their race or gender, it disadvantages individuals who belong to another race or gender."

The three-judge panel is particularly conservative when compared with the generally liberal 9th circuit. Diarmuid O'Scannlian and Edward Leavy were both appointed by Ronald Reagan; Andrew J. Kleinfeld was named by George Bush.

Reaction was swift. The American Civil Liberties Union, which represented minority and women public employees, contractors and students in challenging Proposition 209, called the decision a "diatribe against affirmative action."

Elizabeth Toledo, California coordinator of the National Organization for Women, said the decision was "disappointing but not surprising."

But supporters of Proposition 209 hailed the ruling as a vindication of their position and a major aid for similar ballot initiatives in other states.

"A number of states we've talked with had started to slow down their efforts" following Judge Henderson's decision, said Ward Connerly, who led the campaign for voter approval of Proposition 209. "They now know that they would be on the side of the angels if they were to move ahead with their campaigns. It's a tremendous encouragement to them."

Mr. Connerly said that Washington state and Florida are furthest along with proposed anti-affirmative action initiatives and that campaigns are also under way in Arizona, Colorado, Ohio and Michigan.

The Associated Press

An air force A-10 Thunderbolt, similar to the one that disappeared a week ago.

A-10 Attack Jet Goes AWOL

Did It Crash or Did Pilot Steal It? U.S. Investigators Ask

The Associated Press

PHOENIX, Arizona — Captain Craig Button took off in a $9 million air force attack jet last week for a practice run. Within minutes the plane and its arsenal of four 500-pound bombs were gone.

All that is known for sure is that the A-10 Thunderbolt was last spotted on radar over the Colorado Rockies — nearly 800 miles (1,300 kilometers) off course. Did it crash? Was it sabotaged? Or did the pilot steal it?

"Anything you can think of has probably been looked at," said Staff Sergeant Rian Clawson at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson. "But the evidence so far doesn't indicate any of these wild hypotheses, like he was trying to steal it, or he went off to Telluride to go skiing."

The air force rebuffs the idea that Captain Button, 32, an avid skier, purposely veered the plane off course. But officials acknowledged Tuesday that investigators are looking into Captain Button's background.

Officials had theorized that the pilot could have become incapacitated and may have put the single-seat plane on autopilot. But radar and witness accounts suggest the plane was being maneuvered and wasn't simply gliding.

The mystery began the morning of April 2 about 90 minutes after Captain Button's plane took off in formation with two other A-10s bound for the Barry Goldwater bombing range. It was carrying conventional, not nuclear, weapons.

One of the jets reported seeing Captain Button's plane flying in the rear, but a minute later the lead pilot radioed Captain Button and got no response. When the other pilots realized the plane was missing, they broke formation and began the search.

Initially, they focused on Arizona, but the search shifted to Colorado three days later after the authorities checked radar records and witnesses reported seeing a low-flying plane.

The air force doubts Captain Button bailed out; his ejection seat would have automatically sent out a homing beacon. The last radar track showed the jet near the 12,467-foot (3,800-meter) New York Mountain near Edwards, Colorado. The plane was fully fueled when it took off, but it would have been nearly empty by then.

Nonstop Fun at the IRS: Browsing People's Files

Habit Persists Despite 'Zero Tolerance'

By Stephen Barr
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service fired 23 employees, disciplined 349 and counseled 472 other workers after agency audits found that government computers were still being used to browse through the tax records of friends, relatives and celebrities, an IRS document showed.

The document, covering the 1994 and 1995 fiscal years, listed 1,515 cases where employees were accused of misusing computers.

After accounting for the firings, the disciplinary action and the counseling, 33 percent of the cases were closed without any action. In the remaining 12 percent, the workers took retirement or were cleared.

The information, made public by Senator John Glenn, Democrat of Ohio, marked the second time that IRS employees had been faulted for peeking at tax records. An investigation in 1993 and 1994 turned up more than 1,300 employees suspected of using government computers to browse through tax files. At the time, the IRS promised "zero tolerance" for such snooping.

"I don't know what kind of new math they are using, but that doesn't sound like zero tolerance to me," Mr. Glenn said as he released excerpts of IRS documents and a General Accounting Office report.

Government employees face criminal penalties for misuse of computer data bases, but loopholes have thwarted prosecution of some IRS employees who snooped in files but did not disclose the information to others. Mr. Glenn and other lawmakers, including the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Bill Archer, Republican of Texas, have proposed legislation this year to tighten the laws.

David Mader, the IRS chief for management, said "browsing is not widespread" at the 102,000-employee agency, but he stressed that employees must understand that even one unauthorized peek in tax files undercuts the IRS goal of fair and confidential tax administration. The IRS supports efforts to tighten laws, he said.

"It is challenging to change the behavior of an organization this size," Mr. Mader said.

The General Accounting Office, Congress's investigative arm, reviewed IRS computer security at Mr. Glenn's request. It found that five IRS centers could not account for about 6,400 computer tapes and cartridges that might contain taxpayer data. Since the audit, 5,700 of the tapes and cartridges have been found, Mr. Mader said. He said the problem involved inventory controls and that no tapes had been lost.

At two centers, computer printouts containing taxpayer data were left unprotected and unattended in open areas, the agency said.

The IRS handles more than 200 million taxpayer returns each year at 10 primary centers.

Away From Politics

• **A congressional study using data from the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms shows that Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Texas, states with weak gun control laws, are responsible for supplying a quarter of all guns used in crimes in other states.** *(NYT)*

• **More than 6,000 U.S. pedestrians are killed by cars and trucks every year, one-seventh of all the people who die in traffic accidents, but 99 percent of the federal transportation safety money is spent on improvements for drivers and passengers, not people walking, says a study by advocates of pedestrians. The risk of a pedestrian's being killed by a car or truck is roughly double the risk of homicide by a stranger with a gun, the Surface Transportation Policy Project study found.** *(NYT)*

• **The sun erupted with a solar flare on Monday and a NASA satellite for the first time detected a massive wave of energy moving across the face of the sun. The flare is "ordinary" and probably will have little effect on Earth, said Art Poland, a NASA scientist, with his fingers crossed.** *(AP)*

• **In a scathing self-criticism, the police in St. Petersburg, Florida, have admitted that they were unprepared for race riots that erupted after a white officer fatally shot a black motorist six months ago.** *(AP)*

POLITICAL NOTES

Senate to Subpoena Tax-Exempt Groups

WASHINGTON — Senate investigators reached an agreement Wednesday to issue subpoenas for tax-exempt groups that Democrats charge have illegally helped Republicans.

Democratic members of the committee investigating campaign finance abuses have been asking to subpoena the records of such groups as the Christian Coalition and the National Abortion Rights Committee.

But Republican members of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, which is conducting the investigation, have balked at demanding records for all 11 groups.

In an agreement worked out in two days of negotiations, the panel will issue subpoenas for six of the 11 organizations, but not the Christian Coalition and the anti-abortion group, Democratic aides said. But all 11 groups will be listed in a demand for documents from the Republican National Committee. That will allow Democrats to obtain information on possible coordination between the party committee and tax-exempt groups, which is barred by federal campaign finance law. *(AP)*

White House Shares Blame in FBI Spat

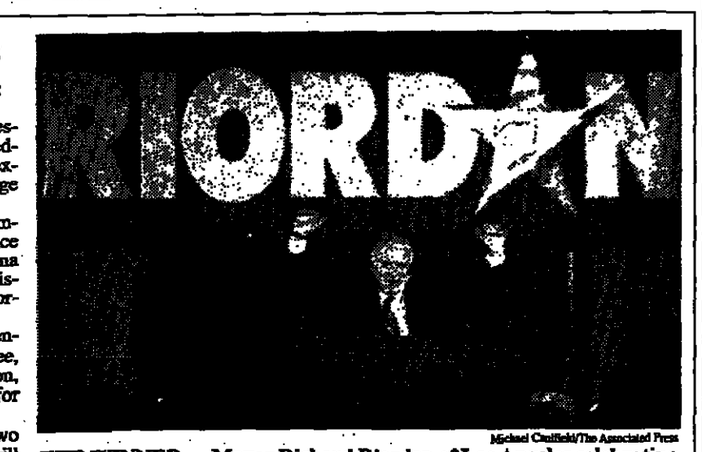
WASHINGTON — Despite President Bill Clinton's public rebuke of the FBI, senior administration officials say they have concluded that the White House's own personnel and procedures bear significant responsibility for a breakdown in communications that left Mr. Clinton unaware of an investigation into suspected Chinese influence-buying.

A highly unusual public spat broke out last month between the White House and the FBI, when Mr. Clinton protested that the bureau improperly instructed two National Security Council staff members not to share with their superiors information that bureau officials gave them about the probe. The FBI shot back that it had done no such thing at its June 1996 briefing for the NSC.

After the dispute became public, Rand Beers, a CIA employee assigned to the White House and one of two NSC staff members who was briefed by the FBI, apologized to a national security adviser, Samuel Berger, and offered to resign, sources said Tuesday.

Mr. Beers acknowledged to Mr. Berger that he should have passed along information about the possible influence-buying to top NSC policymakers, ensuring that it would reach Mr. Clinton, the sources said. The NSC aide made similar statements to Senate investigators.

Mr. Beers, according to the sources, has concluded that he erred by not immediately challenging the FBI briefers' request and insisting on his right to share the information with his White House bosses. *(WP)*



Michael Caulfield/The Associated Press

THE WINNER — Mayor Richard Riordan of Los Angeles celebrating his re-election victory this week over State Senator Tom Hayden.

Quote/Unquote

Michael McCurry, the White House press secretary, on Newt Gingrich's effort to re-establish his leadership role, especially within the Republican Party: "The speaker, as you are all well aware, is on a charm offensive for the far right, and the White House hopes he soon returns to the center of the political spectrum." *(AP)*

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ROLEX
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ASIA/PACIFIC

China Tries to Be King of the Hill

Asians Are Alarmed as Beijing Objects to U.S. Forces in Region

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — China has alarmed many Asian countries by saying publicly for the first time that it opposes the stationing of U.S. forces in the region.

"What it means is that China, as the region's emerging great power, wants to supplant the United States as the key factor in Asian security," a senior Philippine official said Wednesday.

"China is stating its position now — while Japan appears weak and distracted by economic and political problems — to impress other Asian countries that it is the power of the future."

Analysts said that such countries as Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore, which strongly support a continued U.S. military presence in the region, had similar concerns.

Of the nearly 100,000 U.S. military personnel in Asia, 47,000 are based in Japan and 36,000 in South Korea.

Most Asia-Pacific countries regard the U.S. presence as essential for maintaining stability in a region where there are still many serious unresolved international disputes.

Responding to a warning by William Cohen, the visiting U.S. defense secretary, that any reduction in U.S. troop numbers could trigger a dangerous arms race in Asia, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Shen Guofang, said Beijing opposed the stationing of foreign forces in the region.

"We believe Asian nations should preserve the peace and stability of the Asian region," he said Tuesday. "We believe Asian nations are fully capable of doing so."

[Mr. Cohen dismissed the Chinese comments on Wednesday. Agence France-Presse reported from Seoul, saying, "We should take such a response, if I can resort to my old Latin, *cum grano salis* — with a grain of salt.

["Perhaps they would like to see less of a U.S. role," he added, "but the fact remains we are going to maintain our presence."]

Mr. Shen said that Beijing's position had always been to oppose the stationing of foreign troops in Asia.

Yet, in the 1980s, during the Cold War, China privately welcomed the U.S. military presence as a counterweight to Soviet forces in the region.

Even after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Chinese officials hedged their public comments on the U.S. military forces in Asia, apparently because Beijing saw them as an assurance that Japan would not rearm with offensive weapons or take on a wider security role in the region.

For example, at a meeting of foreign ministers from Asia, the Pacific, North America and Europe in Jakarta in July, Foreign Minister Qian Qichen of China was asked at a news conference whether Beijing regarded the U.S. military presence in East Asia as a stabilizing factor for the region.

The presence was "a matter left over from history," he said, but added that if attempts were made to change the security treaty between the United States and Japan into something wider, it would have an adverse impact on regional stability.

Analysts said that since then, a consensus had emerged in Beijing that the agreement signed a year ago in Tokyo between President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto to strengthen the U.S.-Japanese alliance was intended to contain China. Mr. Cohen and other American officials have denied this.

"Since the U.S. views China as a potential threat in Asia," the official China Daily said in a commentary last week, "it strengthened its military ties with Japan and embarked on a policy of containing China."

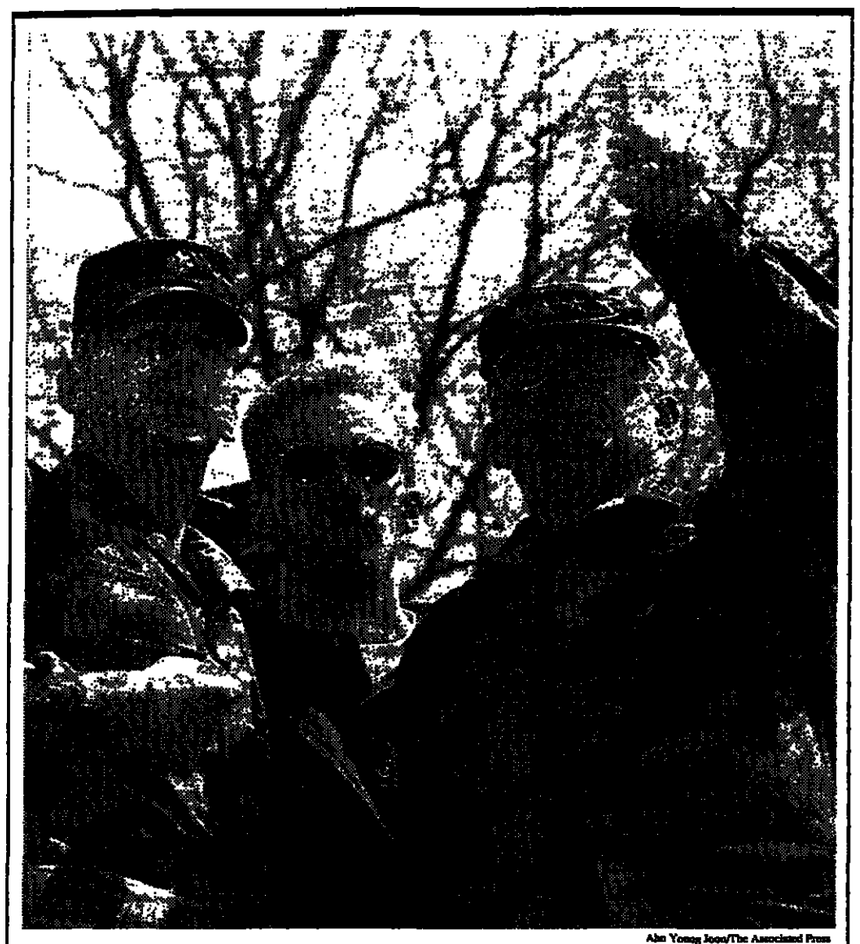
In its annual Strategic Survey for 1996-97 to be made public this month, the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London said that as a result of rapid economic growth since the 1980s, China was likely to "emerge as the overwhelming regional power and the only near-peer competitor" of the United States.

"By the mid-1990s, there was considerable evidence that China planned to use its newfound influence in an assertive way," the institute wrote in an advance copy of the report that was made available to the International Herald Tribune.

"The second half of the decade will demonstrate whether the outside world is prepared to restrain as well as engage an assertive China."

Beijing alarmed many of its neighbors in 1995 by occupying a reef in the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea that was claimed by the Philippines and then using its armed forces in 1996 to intimidate Taiwan ahead of the island's presidential elections.

Many Asian countries have land or sea boundary disputes with China. Together, such areas are vast, often strategically located and thought to be rich in oil and gas.



Ahn Young Joon/The Associated Press

General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, pointing toward North Korea on Wednesday as he toured the demilitarized zone at Panmunjom with a lieutenant. The general was on the last day of a visit to South Korea for security talks.

Pyongyang Promises Answer To Proposals for Peace Talks

Reuters

SEOUL — North Korea has told the United States and South Korea that it will finally respond Wednesday to a proposal for peace talks amid expectations that near-famine will push it to accept the offer.

Officials in Seoul said that senior diplomats of the two Koreas and the United States were to meet in New York to hear the answer.

"North Korea is expected to formally respond to the New York briefing last month by the United States and South Korea on the four-party talks," a Seoul official said Wednesday. Officials in the South Korean capital predicted a favorable response from a neighbor devastated by two years of flooding and experiencing food shortages severe enough to force it to acknowledge that children are dying from malnutrition.

Defense Secretary William Cohen, who arrived in Seoul on Wednesday, urged Pyongyang to work with Seoul and Washington to deal with the food shortage.

"I think the evidence is mounting that it appears to be very severe," Mr. Cohen told reporters.

President Bill Clinton and President Kim Young Sam of South Korea proposed four-way peace talks a year ago between the two Koreas, the United States and China, but Pyongyang put off answering. The aim is to create a lasting peace to replace a truce that ended the 1950-53 Korean War but left the two Koreas technically at war.

In a reminder that tension still runs high in the region, a top North Korean Army official said Wednesday that military moves by South Korea and the United States had pushed the Korean Peninsula to the "brink of war."

"Our country's situation is on the brink of war, and the launching mechanism for a northward invasion is already in place," Kim Yong Chun, chief of general staff of the North Korean People's Army, said at a military rally in Pyongyang.

North Korea frequently issues such warnings and defense officials in Seoul said there had been no extraordinary military movements on either side.

Mr. Cohen repeated Washington's concerns that the food shortage could prompt North Korea's 1.1 million-strong military to revolt or strike out against the South in a last desperate Cold War gambit.

"We have no way of predicting that right now and so what we have to have is a very strong deterrent capability plus a willingness to work with the South Koreans to solve this crisis," he told reporters.

He said the United States was moving cautiously on food aid for the North and that it would be handled only in conjunction with South Korea and other countries.

"We will work very closely with our South Korean allies to see where we go from here," Mr. Cohen said.

International relief efforts for North Korea have gathered pace in the past week. South Korea and the United States have said they are considering supplying more aid.

Images of hungry North Korean children have prompted sympathy in South Korea, and citizens are digging into their pockets to raise millions of dollars for their brethren across the border.

A senior South Korean government official said Seoul had decided to increase its contribution to the UN World Food Program, which is seeking $95.5 million — up from an initial $41.6 million — to buy 200,000 tons of food.

"We are still discussing the size of the increase," the official said. "We will also have to consult with the United States."

South Korea pledged $6 million to the original appeal by the program and the United States $10 million. Washington said Tuesday that it was considering raising its contribution.

"I think our humanitarian gestures will help create a better atmosphere for the talks," the Seoul official said. "I expect a favorable response from Pyongyang but I would be surprised if they agreed to the proposal with no strings attached."

Japan Raids Nuclear Firm For Falsifying Fire Report

Reuters

TOKYO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto ordered raids Wednesday on a state corporation in charge of reprocessing nuclear fuel after officials admitted that they had falsified a report about Japan's worst nuclear accident.

"I am so angry I could not utter a single word," Mr. Hashimoto said. "We will get third-party consultants to conduct a full probe."

As part of an all-out investigation that he ordered, inspectors from the government's Science and Technology Agency raided the offices of the Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corp.

They acted after company executives said at a news conference Tuesday that they had falsified a report about a March 11 explosion at a nuclear-waste processing plant, which exposed 37 workers to small doses of radiation.

The company has been assailed for its delays in alerting local officials to the accident, lax firefighting plans and outdated equipment.

The accident occurred at a bituminization plant, designed to harden low-level nuclear waste by mixing it with asphalt, at Tokaimura, on the Pacific coast 160 kilometers (100 miles) northeast of Tokyo.

The official company report on the accident, issued March 21, said staff at the plant visually confirmed that an initial fire had been put out.

The fire flared up again nine hours later, causing an explosion that released radiation into the atmosphere.

"In fact," a company manager, Hiromasa Nakano, said Tuesday, "no one had confirmed that the fire had been put out. The staff at the scene knew this but thought that there was no way to change the report once it was made official."

The company's chairman, Toshiyuki Kondo, said at the same news conference, "I had believed that there were no lies. I deeply regret this. I thought we had learned a lesson at Monju."

Mr. Kondo was referring to an accident in December 1995 at the company's experimental fast-breeder reactor, Monju. Four executives have been accused of falsifying a report and hiding videotapes of a massive coolant leak there.

There was no radiation leak at Monju, but the plant remains closed.

A spokesman for the Science and Technology Agency called the Tokaimura report an official document that the company was required by law to submit to the government.

"False entries can lead to prosecution," the official said.

Legislature-in-Waiting In Hong Kong Lies Low

By Keith B. Richburg
Washington Post Service

HONG KONG — In the stateliness of the domed Legislative Council building, beneath a classical pediment bearing the royal arms and the figures of Mercy and Truth, Andrew Wong, the council's president, looked across his posh office at a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II and explained in British-accented English the difficulties of presiding over a chamber heading for dissolution in 83 days.

"If we finish the job, we finish the job," he said, sounding weary. As for the queen's likeness, he added: "I'll take it home."

Not far away, on the 10th floor of a rundown office building, the president of "the other legislature" works with a few staff members behind a glass door that bears only her name: "The Office of Mrs. Rita Fan." She dares not add her title or anything else that might reveal this office as the nerve center for Hong Kong's legislature-in-waiting.

Banned from Hong Kong, where advocates of democracy consider it an illegal gathering, this rival legislature meets across the border in Shenzhen. Opponents have threatened to challenge it in court if it tries to operate here before China takes control of Hong Kong on July 1 and the current legislature is abolished. They have the tacit backing of Chris Patten, Hong Kong's acerbic British governor, who has deemed it "a rather odd debating society that meets on occasional Saturday mornings."

Mrs. Fan said: "If the Hong Kong government has this unwelcoming and rejecting attitude, it is best that we do not operate here. It does cause us some inconvenience. But for a smooth transition, this is a small price to pay."

For most of its 150 years as a British colony, Hong Kong was run by a British governor appointed by London and a few handpicked advisers from the local business community; the Legislative Council rubber-stamped government initiatives and added a public veneer of democracy and accountability to what was basically a benign colonial dictatorship.

That began changing in the mid-1980s and changed definitively in 1995, when the number of directly elected seats was increased, more people were allowed to vote and party politics became more pronounced.

Of all the decisions China has made regarding the change of sovereignty, none has evoked more anger and international condemnation than the move to abolish the elected legislature and replace it with an appointed one. The Legislative Council has emerged as a potent symbol of democracy in Hong Kong. To many here and abroad, Beijing's decision to abolish the council is seen as proof of an intention to wipe out any vestiges of democracy and dissent.

A survey last month by Hong Kong Baptist University found that 48 percent of Hong Kong residents thought the council would better protect their rights, while only 4 percent said the same of the Chinese-appointed body. Thirty-nine percent were opposed to the provisional legislature, and 58 percent thought Beijing's panel was less representative than the current body.

In its annual report on Hong Kong released last week, the U.S. State Department said that "China's decision to create a provisional legislature raises serious concerns."

It added, "The process for choosing a provisional legislature was not based upon an open and fair election, and did not produce a legislature that reflects the broad representative will of the people."

China's decision to abolish the council is the issue most likely to spark street demonstrations here during the handover ceremonies, after the colony reverts to China at midnight of June 30. Some foresee dismissed legislators locking themselves in their offices or hundreds of supporters surrounding the legislature building and perhaps forcing a police crackdown in front of thousands of television cameras.

It was Hong Kong's last election, held in 1995 over China's vehement objections, that raised passions on both sides of the border and led to the current legislative stalemate.

After Mr. Patten instituted electoral changes that made the election more democratic than any held previously in Hong Kong, the Democratic Party won a plurality of seats, despite China's lobbying campaign for pro-Beijing candidates.

Officials in Beijing said the election violated treaty agreements and the legislature would have to be thrown out as soon China took control here. To replace it, China named the 60-member provisional legislature, made up exclusively of pro-China politicians, many of them candidates defeated in 1995.

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BRIEFLY

Pakistan Pleased With India Talks

KARACHI, Pakistan — The Pakistani foreign minister, Gohar Ayub Khan, returned from New Delhi on Wednesday saying he was satisfied with his "ice breaking" meeting with his Indian counterpart.

Mr. Khan, who met Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral for 90 minutes in the Indian capital earlier in the day, said to reporters that the talks, which covered problems including the "core" issue of Kashmir, which both countries claim, were held in an "excellent" atmosphere.

Mr. Gujral said the next session between Foreign Ministry officials from the two countries would take place in early May in Islamabad. The prime ministers are to meet in May during a gathering of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation at Male, Maldives.

Resumption of dialogue between the two countries, which have fought three wars since independence in 1947, began last month after more than three years of estrangement. *(AFP)*

New Inquiry on Hanbo Payments

SEOUL — South Korean prosecutors announced an inquiry Wednesday into politicians suspected of taking money from the jailed head of the collapsed Hanbo Steel company, Chung Tae Soo.

"We decided to question all politicians named on the Chung Tae Soo list," a senior prosecutor, Chim Jae Yoon, said, referring to a supposed list of politicians who took money from Mr. Chung.

Mr. Chung said Monday at a televised parliamentary hearing from jail that his company had offered unspecified, but legal, sums of money to three lawmakers, one each from the ruling New Korea Party and two opposition parties. The tycoon denied the existence of the so-called Chung Tae Soo list, but newspapers have published a list of 16 lawmakers who are said to have received money from Hanbo.

Hanbo collapsed under the weight of $5.8 million in debt, and prosecutors say some of that money was used by Mr. Chung to bribe politicians. *(AFP)*

Indian Truckers Strike Is Ended

NEW DELHI — A nine-day truckers strike that crippled Indian businesses and sent prices of food soaring ended Wednesday, a spokesman for the truckers' alliance announced.

The spokesman, S.P. Singh, of the All India Motor Transport Congress, said the strike had been called off after an agreement between the government and the alliance.

He said the government had agreed to abolish a 5 percent service tax on truckers.

About 65 percent of commodities, food grains and vegetables are carried by road in India. The strike, which has bankrupted hundreds of businesses, is estimated to have cost more than $2 billion. *(AFP)*

Burma Dissidents Deny Blast Role

TOKYO — Burmese dissidents in Japan, accused of orchestrating a deadly mail bombing in Rangoon, denied responsibility Wednesday and said the blast resulted from a power struggle among the country's ruling generals.

The Burma Joint Action Committee, an umbrella group representing dissidents, said it believed in peaceful protest and was not involved in the attack.

"That blast had nothing to do with us," the group said. "Here in Japan, the movement against the military has always been peaceful, disciplined and within the bounds of Japanese law."

The explosion at the house of Lieutenant General Tin Oo on Sunday evening killed his daughter, Cho Lei Oo, 34. General Tin Oo is one of the four most powerful men in the Burmese government. The government said the package had been sent by airmail from Japan and said it suspected opposition groups there. *(Reuters)*

For the Record

Bread prices in the Afghan capital, Kabul, are soaring as much as 40 percent a day, because of a severe shortage of wheat flour. Pakistan had been a major supplier of flour, but now is suffering its own shortages. *(Reuters)*

Chinese educators should move away from their centuries-old reliance on examinations as the sole judge of performance, the Xinhua news agency quoted Vice Prime Minister Li Lanqing as saying Wednesday. *(AFP)*

The police in Pakistan said 21 people were wounded in a bomb blast Wednesday in Gujranwala, a city in Punjab. *(AFP)*

HONG KONG: *Curbs on Rights Sought*

Continued from Page 1

in Taiwan as "foreign political organizations" that would be prohibited from linking up with local groups in Hong Kong. People from Taiwan would be considered "aliens."

The changes apparently would not affect the activities of the Chinese Communist Party or its front organizations operating here.

Mr. Suen mentioned the need for "stability" several times, and a long document, "Civil Liberties and Social Order," that accompanied the proposed changes also referred to the need for "safeguards" against unspecified "external forces" that might try to disrupt Hong Kong after the transfer to China.

"It is easy to forget," the document said, "that being a small and open economy Hong Kong is extremely vulnerable to external forces. As a community, we must ensure that there are sufficient safeguards in our system to maintain law and order at all times, and to react to unforeseen circumstances swiftly and effectively."

The only specific example the document cited was a relatively minor incident last year when a group of students barged into the Japanese Consulate to try to present a petition over a chain of disputed islands.

Mr. Suen declined repeated requests to name exactly what threats to stability existed in Hong Kong. He mentioned the possibility of "certain types of situations" arising at the time of the transfer but did not elaborate.

Some have voiced fears that the transfer could be accompanied by street protests from various groups, ranging from critics of China's human rights record to Taiwan and Tibetan separatists who might want to embarrass the Chinese leaders who will be on hand for the ceremonies.

Top police officials have said that they never asked for any expanded powers to curb protests and that the vast majority of demonstrations, including those related to the June 4 anniversary of the crackdown on Tiananmen democracy advocates, have been peaceful.

"Annually, there are thousands of events, and all except a very, very few went off with no problems at all," said the senior assistant commissioner, Ng Ching-kwok, who is director of operations for the Royal Hong Kong police. "In the main, people in Hong Kong, the protesters, are very peaceful people."

James Cheng, a political scientist at City University of Hong Kong, said the Tung administration's fear of social unrest here was "a very weak line."

"We all know that as far as rallies and demonstrations are concerned, ours in Hong Kong are probably the most civilized in the world," he said. "From 100 people to the 1 million people we saw during the June 4 rallies, where have you seen more orderly people?"

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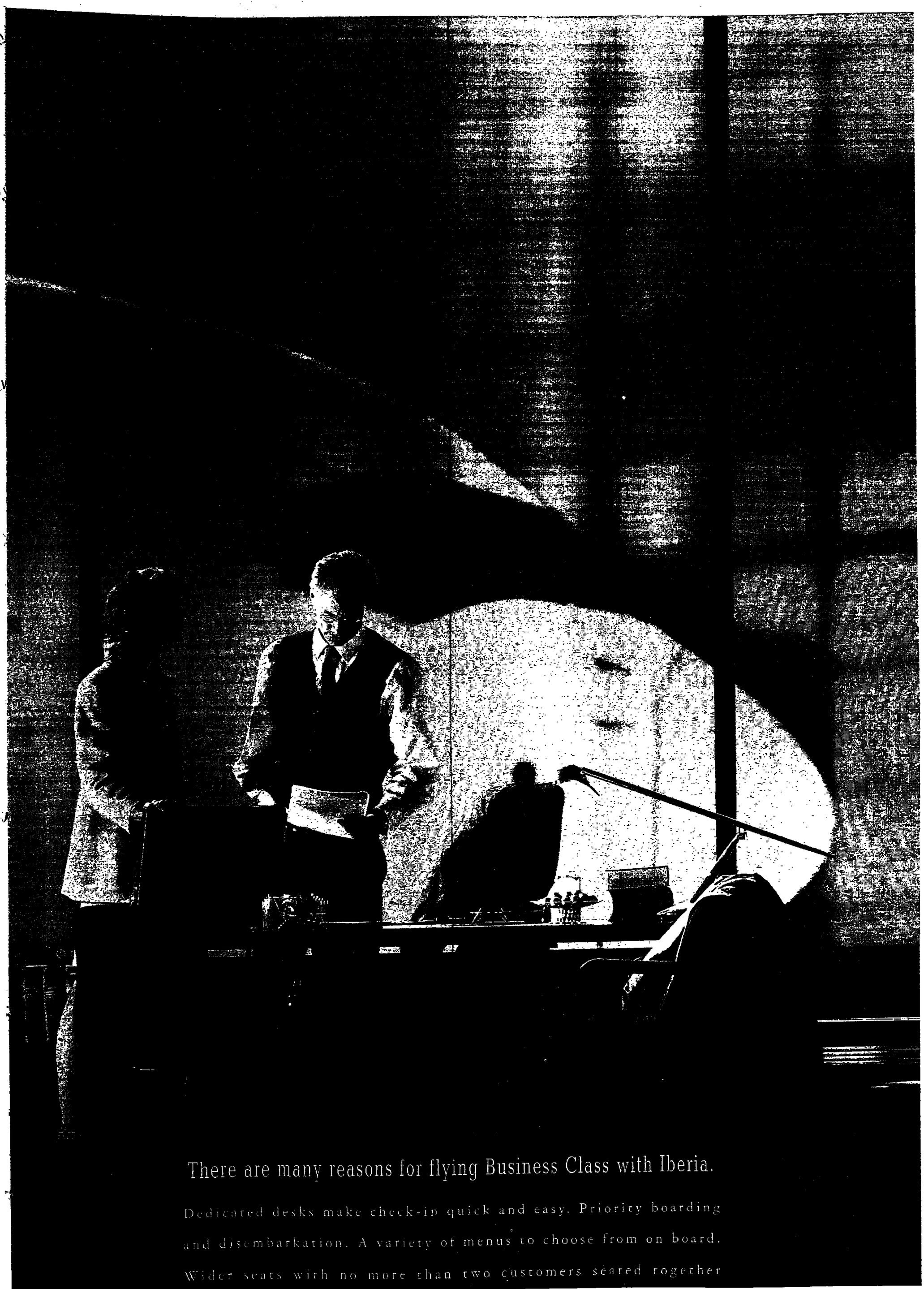


INTERNATIONAL

France Gets NATO-Russia Signing as Part of Trade-Off

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — In a gesture to France, Foreign Minister Yevgeni Primakov of Russia announced Wednesday that Moscow wanted Paris to be host of the signing ceremony of a declaration on new relations between his country and NATO, probably on May 27.

Besides indicating Russian eagerness to close a deal with the alliance, his message signified that France was setting up a face-saving retreat in its quarrel with the United States about what country holds NATO's Southern Command in Naples, French officials and U.S. diplomats said.

"There is no way France can host a milestone meeting of NATO, then turn its back on the alliance a month later because Paris didn't get exactly what it wanted on the command question," another Paris-based European diplomat said.

U.S. officials had hinted earlier that the Clinton administration would be happy with an arrangement that gave France a conspicuous role in NATO's new departure with Moscow, evoking Gaullist ambitions in the Cold War for a special place between the Soviet Union and the West.

The trade-off, they said, is that Washington gets its way about the Naples headquarters. Nor does the Clinton administration want Paris to be in control of the meeting if there are last-minute tensions to be ironed out, an eventuality that most officials appear to discount.

Russia, apparently resigned to the enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, now seems bent on sealing its own pact with the alliance and gaining a voice in allied affairs before the NATO summit meeting in Madrid in July, where at least three former Soviet satellites are expected to be invited to become full members of the alliance. President Bill Clinton and other Western leaders maintain that President Boris Yeltsin's agreement to cooperate with the alliance, despite Russia's objections to NATO enlargement, will end a half-century of military hostility between Russia and the West.

A NATO-Russia signing in May would be a historic event that, visually at least, occurred under the auspices of the French president, Jacques Chirac.

A score of world leaders would attend. Besides Mr. Yeltsin, who has said he wants to come, Mr. Clinton is already scheduled to be in Europe that week. The heads of NATO's other 14 countries would attend, and leaders from prospective member states in Eastern Europe would also like to be there.

At the Foreign Ministry lunch at which Mr. Primakov said that he had proposed the Paris venue to Mr. Chirac, French officials described the prospective pact as a turning point in post-Cold War history.

Asked if holding the ceremony in Paris could have an impact in softening the blow of Mr. Chirac's defeat on the Naples issue, one of them said: "It would certainly show that France had a big place in NATO."

Other French officials said that Paris was positioning itself to abandon its threat of freezing further moves to integrate its armed forces into NATO's command structure if, as now seems clear, Washington insists on keeping the Naples job for now. That sanction threatened to backfire on Paris if other countries, including new members, started corralling posts while France barred its own officers from consideration.

By signaling his damage-control strategy now, diplomats noted, Mr. Chirac strengthened his hand a few hours before a dinner meeting with Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany.

France's isolation in NATO threatened to cloud French-German cooperation on defense and other problems threatening closer integration in the European Union. Paris is already isolated from the other European allies on the Naples issue.

A point on which Mr. Chirac is still insisting, a German official said, was that NATO leave open the possibility of reconsidering the Naples command reasonably soon and not stipulate that the question was closed for a specific period. Mr. Chirac does not face re-election for five years and he apparently would like to be able to maintain that the issue can be re-opened during his presidency.

That possibility would help Mr. Chirac defend a decision to accept less than he had demanded in NATO against attacks from fellow Gaullists that he has surrendered to Washington and criticism from opposition Socialists that he mismanaged relations with the alliance.

BRIEFLY

UN Team Calls On Nigeria To Halt Summary Executions

GENEVA— Two UN rights investigators, warning that the rule of law in Nigeria was on the verge of collapse, called Wednesday on the military government to halt extrajudicial executions and arbitrary arrests by security forces.

In a scathing report to the UN Human Rights Commission, they called on Lagos to release and pardon political prisoners including those convicted in the 1995 trial of alleged "coup plotters," including a former head of state, Olusegun Obasanjo.

Nigeria must allow the Supreme Court to hear an appeal by Chief Moshood Abiola, the presidential claimant jailed on treason charges since June 1994, according to Param Cumaraswamy, a Malaysian lawyer, and Bacre Waly Ndiaye of Senegal.

The killing of Chief Abiola's wife Kudirat in June 1996 should also be fully investigated, they added.

"It appears that under the military government of Nigeria today the rule of law is on the verge of collapse," the joint report said, "if it has not already collapsed."

Aurwalu Yadudu, top legal adviser to Nigeria's military ruler, General Sani Abacha, took the floor at the UN Commission to defend his country's record.

Mr. Yadudu rejected allegations of summary executions, torture and arbitrary detentions as "unfounded." *(Reuters)*

Delay Seen for Space Station

WASHINGTON — Russia's failure to meet its commitment to build a vital component of the international space station will delay the start of construction by about 11 months, NASA officials told Congress on Wednesday.

The first construction flight, scheduled for November, will be no later than October 1998, the head of the station, Wilbur Trafton, told a House subcommittee.

With U.S. funding, Russia built a space tug that was to have been the first element of the station. That module is ready to go, as is the second module built by the United States. But the third element, a service module that was to house crews and provide steering capability, has not been started. *(AP)*

A Step Toward Angolan Peace

LUANDA, Angola — Angola took a major step in its delayed peace process Wednesday when 66 deputies from the former rebel movement UNITA formally took their seats in Parliament.

The swearing-in ceremony removed the final hurdle to the scheduled installation Friday of a power-sharing government involving officials from the former rebels, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, and the current government.

The formation of the Government of National Unity and Reconciliation is the final stage in the UN-brokered peace process, begun in 1994, that has ended two decades of civil war. *(AP)*

ITALY: *Prodi Wins Vote*

Continued from Page 1

government crisis when the center-right Freedom Alliance said it would vote with his center-left coalition on a joint motion to deploy the force.

The leader of the center-right opposition, Silvio Berlusconi, said Tuesday that his alliance would consider lending parliamentary support to a minority government if Mr. Prodi broke with the hard left.

"Make a decision," he said, adding that, "We are ready to make our contribution." He also said his Freedom Alliance was not interested in a place in the government.

Mr. Prodi is confronting his toughest political challenge since taking office last May. Political sources had expected him to face a parliamentary confidence vote to determine whether his coalition's alliance with the hard left can continue.

The main party in the governing coalition, the Democratic Party of the Left, has previously rejected the possibility of a minority government, but smaller, centrist forces in the government have said it should be considered.

Mr. Prodi cannot muster a majority in the lower house without the Refounded Communists, whose 34 deputies hold the balance of power.

Refoundation has said it will back Mr. Prodi on a confidence vote but the party chairman, Armando Cossutta, appeared Wednesday to lay down terms, signaling a potentially rocky ride ahead.

Mr. Cossutta said that if Mr. Prodi wanted to win the confidence motion, "then he should not enter into details." He said: "If we back the motion, then we will vote for it with open hearts. If not, then we will vote against."

The opposition supports the Albania force but, sensing an opportunity to embarrass the prime minister, had insisted that Mr. Prodi acknowledge that his parliamentary majority had been cut to shreds on the issue.

Mr. Prodi took steps to meet the demand in his speech opening Wednesday's debate, noting that a Refoundation "no" vote in the Senate on Tuesday, when the government's own majority was enough to get its motion through, had shown he had problems.

"I declare now that if the dissent expressed by the Communist Refoundation group persists, I will go immediately to the head of state to inform him officially of the situation and await his evaluation," Mr. Prodi said.

Maurizio Gasparri, of the hard-right National Alliance, said the turmoil demonstrated that the government was "brain dead."

"You are making the country look ridiculous. You cannot pretend that your majority hasn't dissolved," he said.

Refoundation regards the Albania force as a neo-colonialist venture and says Italian soldiers will face unacceptable risks. The mission coincides with the 58th anniversary this week of the occupation of Albania by Fascist Italy.

Mr. Prodi welcomed the "broad consensus" expressed by Parliament and among the nation at large concerning the Albanian mission. He stressed that "no interference in Albania's internal affairs would be tolerated" during the mission. *(AP, Reuters, AFP)*

Paolo Cocco/Reuters

Prime Minister Prodi preparing to address Parliament on Wednesday.

FIAT: *Chairman Is Convicted*

Continued from Page 1

the automaker's single largest shareholder. For more than 20 years Mr. Romiti has worked closely with Mr. Agnelli, acting as the hands-on manager, while the latter has tended to be more of an ambassador for the group.

Mr. Romiti was scheduled to serve as Fiat chairman until June 1998. But if he is unable to overturn the conviction in an appeals court, Fiat would have to find a new chairman. The Fiat group had 1996 revenue of 78 trillion lire ($46 billion) and a work force of 237,000 people.

On Wednesday night Fiat issued a statement from Mr. Agnelli, now Fiat's honorary chairman. "While respecting the verdict of the judges," Mr. Agnelli was quoted as saying, "I believe the work of Cesare Romiti and Francesco Paolo Mattioli, in many years of superb collaboration, has always been correct. I therefore would like to confirm my confidence in their innocence, and I believe that this will be proved in appeals courts."

Asked whether Mr. Romiti would resign because of the court-ordered ban on his holding any executive functions in a corporation in Italy, a Fiat spokesman, Alberto Masoero, said: "We don't, at this point, have an official position on that subject, and therefore we cannot comment."

Mr. Masoero said that the ban, although formally part of the conviction and sentence, was not immediately applicable and would become mandatory only after an appeals court had ruled, and then possibly only after a ruling by the supreme court.

One scenario being discussed was that Mr. Romiti might offer his resignation and then leave the decision on whether to accept it to Mr. Agnelli and other Fiat shareholders.

Fiat's lawyer, Vittorio Chiusano, was quoted Wednesday as saying that Mr. Romiti's 18-month prison sentence has "no practical consequence" because it does not meet the minimum threshold for imprisonment under Italian law.

Besides being the Fiat chairman, Mr. Romiti is a major figure in Italian business. In recent months he has sharply criticized the government and fueled speculation that he was hoping to launch a career in politics.

Fiat accounts for nearly 5 percent of Italy's gross national product and, together with other Agnelli family holdings, represents close to 25 percent of the capitalization of the Milan stock market.

ZAIRE: *U.S. Tells Mobutu to Go*

Continued from Page 1

the administration was playing a role in the search for a country where the Zairian leader, who is suffering from prostate cancer, might go to live the rest of his life in exile.

Mr. McCurry said there had to be "some arrangements made for a transitional process that leads to a newly elected government." He sidestepped questions about the U.S. role.

But a senior administration source and a source close to the Mobutu family said earlier that the thrust of the U.S. message being delivered through various African leaders close to Marshal Mobutu was that he could best serve his nation by leaving the scene.

The administration has passed its views to the marshal through African leaders who are close to him, including King Hassan II of Morocco, President Omar Bongo of Gabon and others, according to the American source close to the Mobutu family.

Until Wednesday, the administration had declined to publicly urge Marshal Mobutu to step down, but a top U.S. diplomat already had made America's wishes clear in a statement on Capitol Hill. The assistant secretary of state for African affairs, George Moose, called Marshal Mobutu's regime "bankrupt" and "a thing of the past."

So far Marshal Mobutu, 66, has not responded to the U.S. message.

"Mobutu is old and dying, but he is no less selfish," said a senior administration official, who requested anonymity. "His ambition is to die as head of Zaire and the consequences be damned."

The official added: "One can hope he'll think bigger than that and see that he could play a positive role in the transition by leaving."

Since seizing power in 1965 with the backing of the CIA, Marshal Mobutu and his ruling circle have reportedly enriched themselves by skimming profits from Zaire's mineral exports and by pocketing foreign aid.

Rebels in the east, led by Laurent Kabila, have encountered little resistance from Marshal Mobutu's forces and control most of the nation's gold, diamond, copper and cobalt mines.

Mr. Moose told the African subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee that Marshal Mobutu still had enough influence left to play a constructive role, if he chose to do so, to help Zaire make a peaceful transition to "the post-Mobutu era."

One question facing Marshal Mobutu, as well as the United States and such close European backers as France and Belgium, is which country might agree to receive him if he decides to leave Zaire.

The United States has already made clear it would not be prepared to offer Marshal Mobutu sanctuary.

The attitudes of France, Belgium and Switzerland, where Marshal Mobutu has many properties and his bank accounts, remain unclear.

UKRAINE: *Rampant Graft*

Continued from Page 1

Western executives say, is diplomatese for corruption. In a series of cables to Washington over the last six months, the embassy described the business environment here as characterized by bribes, threats, and violence.

American and Ukrainian officials estimate that as much as $100 billion has been spirited out of the country by profiteering officials; if the money were brought back, the country's foreign reserves would nearly double, an American official said.

Ukraine, roughly the size of France in area and population, is now the third-largest beneficiary of American aid, after Israel and Egypt, receiving more than $1 billion since the country's independence in 1991.

In that time, the country's standard of living has plummeted — the average monthly income is about $80 — while senior Ukrainian officials have become multimillionaires.

All this has prompted some American officials to suggest tight restrictions on aid as the only way to get the government to begin serious about reform.

It is an idea, the officials concede, that would run into resistance in Congress, where there is a strong Ukrainian lobby.

When Leonid Kuchma was elected president in 1994, he spoke out strongly against corruption, and, under pressure from the World Bank, instituted a number of reforms.

For a while, there was optimism among Western businesses and diplomats. But now, they say, the government has regressed and the situation is worse than ever.

As an example, one businessman said he would need licenses from three agencies for a pesticide project, and each license, he said, would give another official the opportunity to demand a bribe.

Among the reforms the World Bank had insisted upon was a reduction in the number of licenses.

While Mr. Kuchma himself is considered relatively clean, at least by the prevailing local ethic, some of his closest advisers are muscling in on legitimate businesses, diplomats and businessmen said.

Businessmen and diplomats have raised questions about a decree last August that required farmers to deliver their grain to the state, instead of selling it privately.

The state paid the farmers around $85 a ton, at a time when the world market price was close to $200 a ton.

More than 5 million tons were delivered to the state, which in turn earned as much as $500 million in profits. Diplomats and executives said the proceeds were divided among various public officials.

Ukraine desperately needs foreign investment in order to modernize famously inefficient Communist-era industries and to overcome its economic difficulties.

But instead of coming in, companies are leaving.

Earlier this year, Tate & Lyle, one of the world's largest sugar producers, shut its refinery in Odessa, after the government suddenly banned the importation of sugar cane.

The British company had invested $5 million in modernizing the rundown plant, and 1,100 workers are now unemployed. A spokesman for Tate & Lyle declined to comment.

The beneficiaries of the decree are domestic sugar beet growers, inefficient state-owned operations, in which government officials have interests, according to diplomats and businessmen.

Potentially, one of the most lucrative enterprises in this country of 52 million people will be the sale of mobile phones.

Recently, the government awarded three licenses, one to a Ukrainian company called Kiev Star.

Its owners include an adviser to Mr. Kuchma, a cabinet minister and a Ukrainian with links to organized crime, said officials from two Western countries and a Western businessman with close ties to the government.

Motorola, which had plans to invest $500 million to build the telecommunications system, announced it was giving up on Ukraine.

"Motorola cannot continue to invest in Ukraine when the government is constantly changing the rules of the game," a spokesman for Motorola said at the time.

ROMANCE: *Bonds That Raise Questions for Top Fed Official*

Continued from Page 1

ernors and the 12 Fed regional presidents. All members attend the meetings, which are held about every six weeks, but only five of the 12 regional presidents are entitled to vote at any one time.

As one of the leading bond traders in the United States, Goldman Sachs frequently invests its own capital in government securities, effectively making bets on the Fed's monetary policy and the direction of interest rates. Mr. Corrigan was named a partner at the firm late last year.

As president of the Boston Fed, Ms. Minehan, 50, sits on the Open Market Committee. Before being named to the post in July 1994, she was the Boston Fed's first vice president and chief operating officer.

Mr. Corrigan said he and Ms. Minehan had discussed their situation with the Fed's general counsel, J. Virgil Mattingly, and with lawyers at Goldman Sachs as soon as their relationship started to become serious.

"I can't speak to John LaWare's statement, but we really have gone to great length with the attorneys to cover every base," he said. 'On many occasions I have said to Mr. Mattingly: 'Is there anything else that you want to know?' "

Fed officials said they could recall no case of a voting member of the Open Market Committee encountering similar potential conflicts of interest because of a personal relationship. But, in an age marked by a steady rise in the number of two-career professional couples, there have been other sensitive issues involving senior Fed officials.

For example, David W. Mullins Jr., the former deputy chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, and Mary Ann Gadziala, his fiancée, drew attention in 1994. Ms. Gadziala, a lawyer at the Securities and Exchange Commission who later married Mr. Mullins, told Business Week magazine in 1994 that she had ignored approaches from law firms and banks about prospective jobs because she was concerned that they might create an appearance of impropriety.

In another case, when Sam Cross worked as a senior official at the New York Fed and his wife was a lawyer at Citibank, they both signed letters agreeing not to discuss Fed matters, Fed officials said.

Reading from a prepared statement, Mr. Corrigan said: "We have been repeatedly assured that steps we have taken to avoid conflicts of interest have been appropriate and satisfactory. As necessary, we will remain in consultation with the lawyers in the future."

Under their arrangement, Mr. Corrigan said, Ms. Minehan avoids any supervisory or regulatory role involving Goldman Sachs. He also said they "do not discuss issues involving monetary policy" and that he did not "directly or indirectly participate in any decisions at Goldman bearing on investments in government securities."

Mr. Corrigan said his work at Goldman basically fell into two broad categories: external work with government clients, helping to advise them on bank reform and other matters related to financial regulation, and internal work for Goldman's risk-management committee related to legal compliance and financial controls.

"Goldman Sachs is satisfied that appropriate steps have been taken by all parties to guard against any potential conflicts of interest," Robert Katz, the firm's general counsel, said. "We explained to the Fed's lawyers what Corrigan does at Goldman and particularly that he has nothing to do with our trading."

Fed officials in Boston, New York and Washington referred questions on the matter to Mr. Mattingly, the Fed's general counsel.

"Obviously it raised some issues because of his position and her position," Mr. Mattingly said. For one thing, he said Ms. Minehan "must accept no gifts from Goldman Sachs."

The Fed also set rules concerning Ms. Minehan's public appearances with Mr. Corrigan. "She is not to appear at all in any kind of situation, client situation, where he is trying to solicit clients," Mr. Mattingly said.

ISRAEL: *Evidence of a New 'Intifada' Is Emerging as the Peace Process Falters and Public Opinion Hardens*

Continued from Page 1

parts: Jibril Rajoub, Mohammed Dahlan and Amin Hindi, each of whom heads a security service reporting to the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Although limited, cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian security forces in the field has prevented significant clashes between the Israeli Army and the estimated 20,000 armed Palestinian policemen.

The Palestinian police, however, have taken casualties in their efforts to intercede between soldiers and rock-throwing youths.

Mourners in Hebron, a center of the violence, picked up rocks Wednesday as they left the funeral of one of three Arabs shot dead Tuesday and charged through a line of unarmed Palestinian police officers to confront Israeli soldiers, Reuters reported.

The soldiers wounded 31 Palestinians with rubber bullets. The street battles flared a day after the heaviest bloodshed in the West Bank since the crisis began.

In a funeral procession for Nader Saeed, 25, a supporter of the radical Islamic group Hamas and one of the three killed Tuesday, an angry crowd in Hebron chanted their support for an assassinated Hamas bombmaker, shouting, "Yahya Ayyash, you are dead but we continue on your path."

Several Palestinian youths climbed on top of buildings and used slingshots to try to hit Israeli snipers, Reuters said. A Palestinian policeman fired off several volleys with a sling before his colleagues stopped him.

More than an hour into the violence, three Palestinian police jeeps drove in reverse along a main street, forcing demonstrators to retreat out of stone-throwing range.

For the first time since the two sides made peace in September 1993, mainstream Palestinian leaders are organizing confrontations with Israeli troops.

Veteran members of Mr. Arafat's Fatah faction in the Palestine Liberation Organization — activists such as Marwan Barghouti and Ahmed Adik, who reached prominence in the 1987-93 *intifada*, the uprising against Israeli military occupation, and later became influential supporters of negotiated peace — have come full circle. Now they openly plan a long-term campaign of resistance to the dictates of the Jewish state.

The Center for Palestine Research and Studies, in Nablus, last month found that, for the first time, a Palestinian majority — 52 to 41 percent — favored the proposition that "there is no possibility to reach a solution acceptable to the two parties." The sample of 1,542 people had a 3 percent margin of error.

In other questions, 38 percent — about double the previous year's result — supported a return to "armed attacks," a euphemism for suicide bombings in Israel. Thirty percent expressed approval of intifada-style confrontations.

Israelis, too, have found it easy to fall back on the language, stereotypes and points of view that predated their first diplomatic accord with the PLO.

Newspaper and television commentaries speak much more often now of "the Arabs" — instead of the Palestinians — and what it calls their unalterable enmity to Israel.

Polls of 1,000 Israeli Jews, conducted in July and again last month, indicated a reversal on the prospect of "real peace with the Arabs" in coming years. Last July, as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu formed his government, Israeli Jews said yes to that question by 61 to 39 percent. Last month, by 53 to 47 percent, they said no.

A well-known Peace Index created by the Steinmetz Center at Tel Aviv University found a drop in support for existing peace accords to 48 percent, the first time since 1993 that they have not commanded a majority.

EUROPE

Can Russian History Rest in Peace?

Supporters of Lenin and Czar Can't Bury Their Differences

By Alessandra Stanley
New York Times Service

MOSCOW — Two of the greatest antagonists in Russian history are once again pitted against each other in an odd and passionate debate currently obsessing Russians: their burials.

The remains of Lenin, the father of the Russian Revolution, embalmed in a secret concoction, still lie in state in a grandiose mausoleum that dominates Red Square.

The remains of Czar Nicholas II, whose execution Lenin ordered in 1918, lie in a government pathology lab in the Ural city of Yekaterinburg.

There is a growing movement, at least among reformist politicians and members of the intelligentsia, to bury communism once and for all by interring Lenin in a less conspicuous place. President Boris Yeltsin stirred things up last month by suggesting that a referendum be held on the issue.

The remains of the czar, some members of his family, and four retainers, were discovered in 1991 in a mass grave in Yekaterinburg, where they were executed. Ever since, the Russian Orthodox Church, monarchists and other traditionalists have been slowly paving the way to bury Nicholas II and his family with due pomp and ceremony in the Romanov family crypt in the Peter and Paul Fortress in St. Petersburg.

But formal plans to bury the remains of the royal family have been postponed at least twice. There are powerful interest groups who fear the political symbolism. Many people also remain opposed to recognizing the last Romanov.

Those passions were vividly illustrated on April 1 when the only major statue honoring Nicholas II — put up last year on a barren field in northeastern Moscow — was blown up with explosives.

A previously unknown group, which calls itself the Workers-Peasants Red Army— apparently after the official name of the Soviet Army until 1946 — claimed responsibility, saying it was an act of retaliation against those who wanted to bury Lenin, who died in 1924.

Communist leaders disavowed the violence, but, not surprisingly, they are vehemently opposed to any move to bury either leader. It is the notion of removing Lenin from his bulletproof glass case that has them most upset.

While monarchists and church leaders are lobbying to have Czar Nicholas canonized, some Communists are refashioning the father of Bolshevism as a nobleman and even a secular saint to justify keeping him in his exalted position above ground on Red Square.

At a recent news conference on the question of burying Lenin, the issue became tangled up in a discussion over whether embalming was contrary to the Russian Orthodox Church's teachings.

Some Lenin supporters argued that because some Russian princes and saints were buried above ground, Lenin should be, too. Lenin's niece, Olga Ulyanova, 74, who attended, was asked whether her revolutionary uncle would have minded his followers' trading on his class rank or cult following to justify his presence on Red Square. "He himself had noble roots," she said.

Patriarch Aleksey II has avoided comment on the sensitive issue of burying Lenin, but he has delicately suggested that the government do nothing that would further traumatize the Russian population.

NYT

Ever since a pile of bones were discovered in a mass grave in Yekaterinburg, Russians have been debating what to do with them. It took years to convince skeptics that the remains were those of the royal family. A commission of intellectuals, government officials and church leaders was created to resolve the issue.

The Russian Orthodox Church also created a separate commission to determine whether the czar should be canonized as a martyr. Those deliberations could take years, but already icons of Nicholas II have popped up in markets around Moscow.

Most Russians have accepted the bones in Yekaterinburg as belonging to members of the royal family.

A British team of scientists, who compared DNA of the bones with that of Prince Philip of Britain, a relative of Czarina Alexandra, identified them in 1993 with "98.5 percent certainty." Russian and American scientists confirmed those results with even greater conviction in 1995. But the commission has not reached a final conclusion.

"It's the endless commission," said Eduard Radzinsky, a historian and playwright who has written biographies of the czar and Stalin and who has lobbied intensely to bury the czar. "It's a symbol of Russia. Everybody wants it, but for everybody it is impossible."

He said that some members still harbored doubts about the authenticity of the bones.

Mr. Radzinsky said that one priest had assured him the bones could not truly have be the czar's because no miracles had occurred since their recovery.

"I told him that the very fact that former Communist Party officials and Russian Orthodox priests are sitting on the same commission should be viewed as the miracle," Mr. Radzinsky said.

But it is Lenin's fate that seems to preoccupy ordinary Russians most.

Alexandra Kuzina, 45, a chemist who was waiting in line on Red Square to pay her respects to Lenin, deplored any change. "The mausoleum reminds me of a time when we were proud and strong," she said. "It's a symbol of all the good things embodied by the former Soviet Union."

Directly across Red Square, Svetlana Porturva, 28, disagreed as she emerged from the General Universal Magasin, the department store that is now a looming symbol of Russian capitalism.

"It should have happened a long time ago," she said. "I mean, this person died, so he should be buried underground. How long can this go on?"

The police officers who guard Lenin's tomb do not want to lose their day jobs. "Is he bothering anyone by lying there?" asked one of them, Nikolai Yegorov, 30. "Anyway, if they close the mausoleum there will be absolutely nothing to do on Red Square."

Mr. Radzinsky would like to see Lenin buried in St. Petersburg, next to his mother. "Lenin should be buried with due respect as a great political leader," Mr. Radzinsky said. "He is the executioner, but he is also a victim of the revolution. The man who dreamed of destroying the state created the most monstrous state in the world."

To members of the communist-nationalist opposition, removing Lenin's body from Red Square is not just a repudiation of Soviet rule. To some, communism is just slumbering, and Lenin, lying in his glass coffin like Sleeping Beauty, is keeping the movement alive.

Alexander Prokhanov, editor in chief of the nationalist, pro-communist newspaper Zavtra, put it this way:

"As long as Lenin is here, as long as this crystal lives, at any moment the Soviet Union, the communist doctrine and the communist red reality can be restored."

BRIEFLY

Major Faces the 'Sleaze' Issue

LONDON — Prime Minister John Major, whose Conservative Party's re-election campaign has been overshadowed by charges of "sleaze," gave guarded support Wednesday to a legislator accused of taking money from business people in return for raising issues in Parliament.

He said that Conservatives in the northwest England constituency of Neil Hamilton had the right to choose Mr. Hamilton as the party candidate, adding, "I hope people will vote for him." The nomination for the May 1 general election was approved by a 2-to-1 margin Tuesday night in the Tatton constituency.

"Only if and when he is shown to have misbehaved — then he should face the House of Commons, and the House of Commons should decide how to respond," Mr. Major said. *(AP)*

Slovakia Recalls Ambassador

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia — Slovakia, offended by comments by President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic about its prime minister, said Wednesday that it had recalled its ambassador to Prague for consultations.

According to Slovak news organizations, Mr. Havel suggested in an interview with the French daily Le Figaro that Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar was paranoid. The context of Mr. Havel's remarks was that Mr. Meciar was oversensitive to Czech criticism of Slovakia. *(Reuters)*

EU Institutions Clash on Corn

STRASBOURG — The European Commission strongly criticized the European Parliament on Wednesday, saying it would disregard the assembly's call for an end to the import of genetically engineered corn.

"There is no possibility to suspend the regulation," said Klaus van der Pas, a commission spokesman, referring to the authorization for imports of the grain, granted in December to the Swiss company Ciba-Geigy. *(AP)*

Scientologists' Case Is Rejected

STRASBOURG — The European Commission of Human Rights on Wednesday threw out a discrimination case brought by the Church of Scientology against Germany, on the ground that the sect had not exhausted domestic legal channels. The commission decided not to pass on the case to the European Court of Human Rights.

The Church of Scientology, which counts some 30,000 followers in Germany, complained that the German government considered it a commercial enterprise, rather than a religion. It also asserted that several German states had taken measures to reduce its influence. *(Reuters)*

David Jones/Agence France-Presse

Margaret Thatcher campaigning in Dorset. She supported Mr. Hamilton, saying "nobody's perfect."

In Poll, Most Germans Hope Kohl Loses

Reuters

BONN — A clear majority of German voters hope Chancellor Helmut Kohl will not be elected for a fifth term in next year's general election, but expect it to happen anyway, an opinion poll released Wednesday indicated.

Mr. Kohl, 67, last week put an end to months of speculation by announcing that he planned to run again in the election, due in September or October 1998.

The poll by Infratest Burke Berlin, released before its publication Thursday in the weekly Die Zeit, said 57 percent of Germans did not want Mr. Kohl re-elected, but 59 percent believed he would win.

Sixty-three percent saw Mr. Kohl as the strongest leadership figure, followed by the premier of Lower Saxony, Gerhard Schroeder of the opposition Social Democrats, with 20 percent, and the Social Democrats' chairman, Oskar Lafontaine, with 7 percent.

Even supporters of the Social Democrats gave Mr. Kohl 48 percent, ahead of Mr. Schroeder, with 32 percent, and Mr. Lafontaine, with 10 percent.

German voters do not elect their head of government directly. As in other parliamentary systems, he is chosen by majority vote in the Bundestag.

The popularity of Mr. Kohl's center-right coalition has slid in recent months, under pressure from high unemployment and its difficulty in carrying out tax and pensions revisions.

Of the 1,013 voters polled on April 7, 41 percent said they would vote for the Social Democratic Party if an election were held this week, and 11 percent said they would vote for the party's likely coalition partners, the Greens.

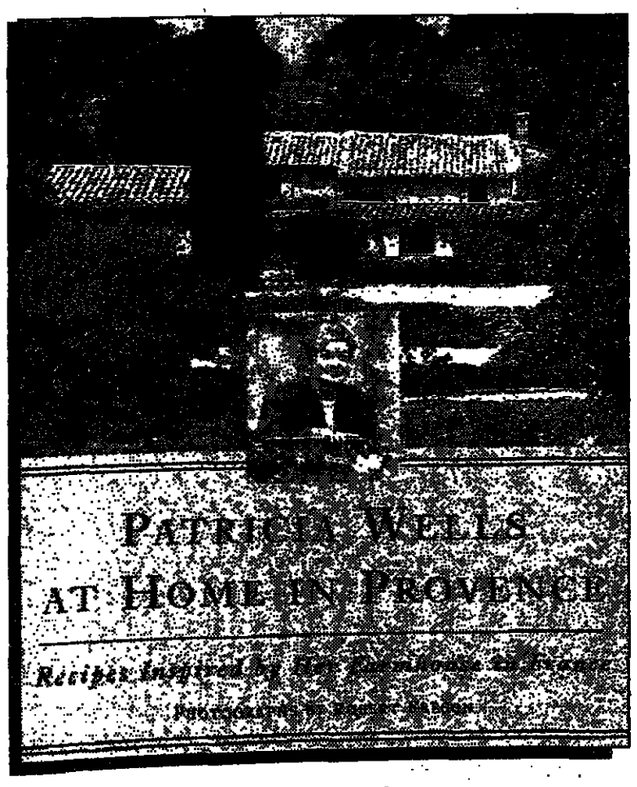
Thirty-five percent said they would vote for Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats and 5 percent for their centrist coalition partners, the Free Democrats.

■ Schroeder Leads a Poll

Mr. Schroeder would be the Social Democrats' best candidate in 1998 in the view of nearly two-thirds of German voters, according to an opinion poll published Wednesday by the weekly Die Woche, Agence France-Presse reported from Bonn.

PATRICIA WELLS AT HOME IN PROVENCE

Recipes Inspired by Her Farmhouse in France



For the past thirteen years, Patricia Wells has been carrying on a love affair not with an individual, but with a region of France, a centuries-old stone farmhouse, and a cuisine. Now, in a cookbook that captures the soul of modern regional French cooking, the award-winning journalist and author invites readers to share the passion, the joy, and, best of all, the cooking of her adopted home.

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Patricia Wells has lived in France since 1980, where she is the restaurant critic for the *International Herald Tribune*. She is the author of five best-selling books: *The Food Lover's Guide to Paris, The Food Lover's Guide to France, Bistro Cooking, Simply French,* and *Patricia Wells' Trattoria.*

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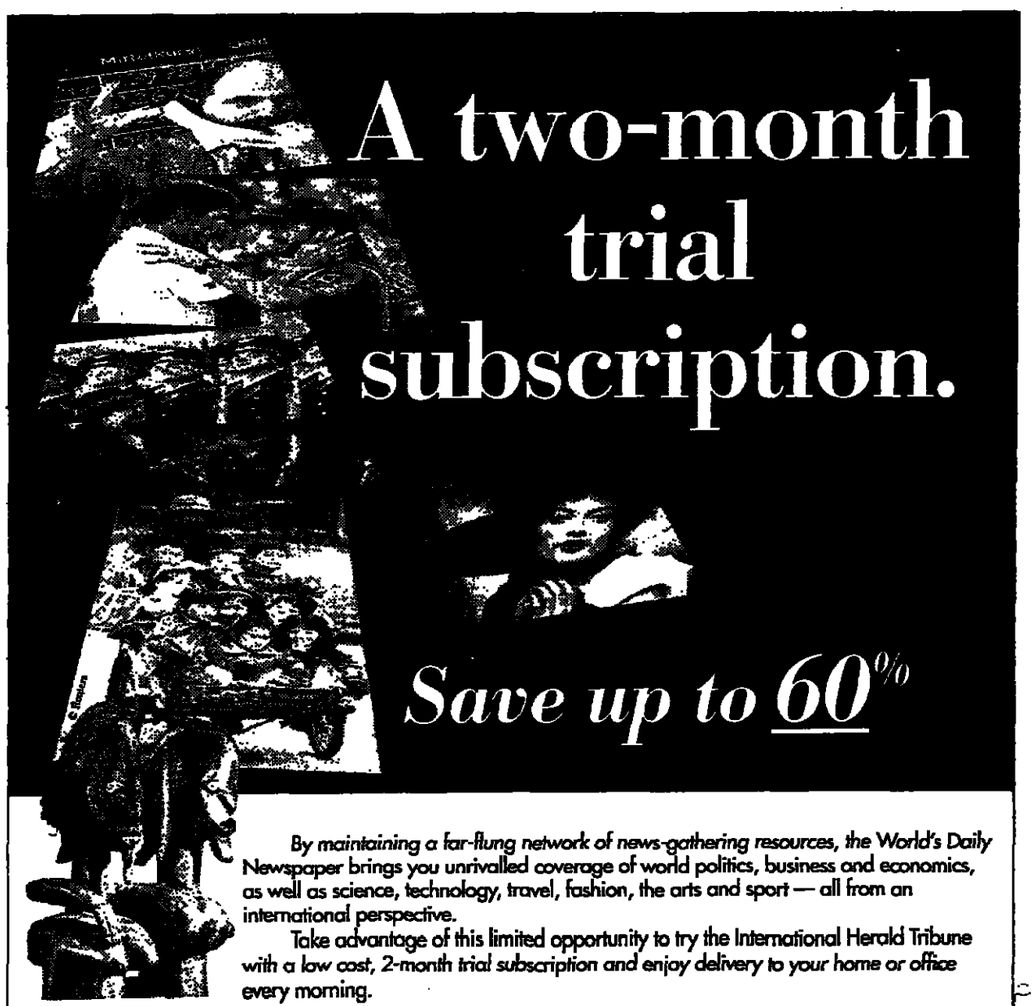

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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune
PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Trust Can Return

Violence threatens to overwhelm diplomacy in the Middle East because Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat have undermined the trust that held together the peace. Trust can be restored, but it will take a concerted effort by Mr. Netanyahu, Mr. Arafat and President Bill Clinton.

Monday's meeting between Mr. Clinton and Mr. Netanyahu was part of an American effort to get the two sides talking again after nearly a month of violence and escalating tension. The meeting produced no immediate progress, apart from a renewed Israeli pledge to build Palestinian housing in Jerusalem. But Mr. Clinton pressed for additional steps to improve the economic condition of Palestinians. And he urged Israel to suspend the building of new settlements or the initiating of significant changes in Jerusalem while talks with the Palestinians proceed.

The Oslo agreements give Israel legal authority to govern Jerusalem and decide on its own the size of troop withdrawals in the West Bank. But that authority need not always be flaunted. The overriding concern for both sides should be to build trust and good faith in which disagreements can be peacefully resolved at the bargaining table, not used as pretexts for violence.

Mr. Netanyahu correctly notes that Israel has observed the legal requirements of the Oslo accords. He has fulfilled Israel's commitments to pull back most of its troops from Hebron, release female Palestinian prisoners and set a further limited withdrawal from rural areas of the West Bank.

But Israel's compliance has not been accompanied by the kind of gestures and words that previously made the peace effort much more than a series of specific actions. The power of the Oslo accords came in large measure from the compromises and occasional leaps of faith that made the agreements possible, and from the cooperative spirit of Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

Mr. Netanyahu has done his part to erode that spirit by humiliating Mr. Arafat. He has failed to consult with the Palestinian leader or even inform him in advance about Israeli decisions like the move to begin construction of the housing project in East Jerusalem.

Mr. Arafat has not even bothered to fulfill many of his legal commitments under Oslo. He maintains an armed police force nearly double the size he agreed to. He has failed to complete the promised revision of the Palestine Liberation Organization's charter to replace language calling for Israel's destruction. Most troubling, he has countenanced violent demonstrations, ordered his security forces to reduce cooperation with Israel and indulged leaders of Hamas and Islamic Holy War who urge suicide bombings.

President Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright cannot magically produce trust between Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat, or impose an agreement in its absence. But Washington has great influence with both leaders that it has not fully exercised.

Mr. Netanyahu can be combative and difficult, as he made clear at a testy news conference in Washington. It cannot be easy for Mr. Clinton to jog him, but he must keep pressing him to take a more expansive approach to the peace effort and to be more forthcoming in his dealings with Mr. Arafat. The Palestinian leader could use a firm reminder from Mr. Clinton that violence will destroy the peace and that anything short of a sustained campaign to prevent terrorism is insufficient. Only steps like these can overcome the mistrust that now threatens the peace.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Stay On in Panama?

The latest poll reaffirms that a huge majority of Panamanians wants U.S. troops to stay on past the year 2000 treaty deadline for their departure. This may surprise many who recall the convulsive political battle of the 1970s that ended in a U.S. agreement to turn over the canal, whose building is an American legend, to Panama and to evacuate the American bases.

The canal is being turned over on schedule, but the Panamanian people would plainly prefer to retain the economic and security benefits of a continuing American military role. This poses to the United States the ironic and awkward question, one that everyone had thought settled 20 years ago, of whether the troops should go or stay.

The American decision of 1977 to ratify the several canal treaties indicated Washington's determination to deal with sovereign Latin states as equals. That principled position became the underpinning of U.S. foreign policy in the region. To revert to the old style of running bases would expose Washington to a challenge of its intent — and perhaps also to Panama's next surge of nationalism.

Yet it is evident that Americans defer more to Panama's nationalism than do most Panamanians. The 16,000 existing American-provided jobs, and their steadying of the investment climate, matter to Panama.

Having dissolved its army after the Manuel Antonio Noriega fiasco, Panama sees an American presence as helping it deal with the powerful drug cartels. And the cartels are not the only way the world has changed in 20 years. Latins and Americans no longer see each other with a Cold War fever. Integration, not alienation, is the dominant hemispheric note.

In 1995 the two presidents agreed to explore "potential benefits" from a "reduced post-1999 U.S. military presence." Under specific discussion is a facility that the two countries might set up at one of the old American bases to perform counter-narcotics and perhaps other missions. Done the right way, it could serve.

The going is slow. Panamanian officials are wary of provoking nationalist elements. American officials hesitate to push down a path that could become a political as well as a diplomatic nettle. But this is the year for the crucial decisions affecting future options. The closer the two sides get to the year 2000 troop withdrawal deadline, the harder the going will be.

Panama's reluctance to take over the extensive and dearly maintained canal properties aggravates the problem. Some of the old crowd of American zone residents are stirring doubts about the locals' capacity to run and to enlarge this still vital but increasingly stressed waterway.

The clock is ticking. This is an odd situation that needs more attention and energy than it is getting from either government.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

Other Comment

To Save the Social Model

For all its faults, the social model is deeply entrenched in Continental Europe. Germany's economic performance since 1945 is sufficient testimony to the power of this tradition.

The problem in most Continental countries is that labor costs are too high. So why can't a consensus now be established to lower them? The answer lies in a profound political and intellectual failure. Faced with the highest unemployment for decades, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition has retreated down blind alleys that raise costs rather than lower them; unemployment can be dealt with, it has suggested, by job-sharing, limits on the working week, even by restricting overtime.

It has been a pitifully inadequate response. Rulers have invested so much political capital in the unpopular fiscal measures required for Europe's single currency that they have had *nothing left over for jobs. But* macroeconomic belt-tightening at an awkward point in the business cycle is an entirely different matter from the painful, structural, microeconomic reforms that are needed to create jobs. On those, governments could have done more. They have chosen not to.

That could prove a foolish choice. When monetary union comes into effect, it will mean that local economic slowdowns can no longer be dealt with by local monetary policies and only in a limited way by local fiscal measures. The brunt will be borne by the labor market — which, if it is not flexible enough, will mean by unemployment.

If governments are to avoid the potentially disastrous consequences of that, they need to start their reforms now — when the social model still stands a chance of being preserved.

— The Economist (London).

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune
PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

ESTABLISHED 1887

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Directeur de la Publication: Richard McClean

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S.A.S. au capital de 1.200.000 F. RCS Nanterre B 732021126. Commission Paritaire No. 61337
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Korean Reunification Is Closer Than You Think

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — Up to 100,000 North Koreans may die from starvation and related diseases in the next four months, according to classified U.S. intelligence estimates that have provoked a heated debate inside the Clinton administration.

The estimates, assembled by the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency, should force official Washington to do what governments do most reluctantly and least successfully: to think the unthinkable. Carefully calibrated diplomatic strategies for containing and bringing change to North Korea over a period of years may suddenly become worthless.

Doubts about the ability of the isolated Communist regime to survive this crisis have risen in recent days in Washington, which is still committed to a "soft landing" policy based on peaceful, gradual change in North Korea.

But North Korean officials startled visiting U.S. senators by hinting openly at conflicts within the regime, in conversations earlier this month. And reports of a recent failed attempt on the life of party leader Kim Jong Il are termed "credible" by one U.S. official, who declined to provide details.

The specter of turmoil or collapse in North Korea dominates the agenda of the talks that Defense Secretary William Cohen begins in Seoul this Thursday with South Korea's leaders. Seoul fears that a sudden collapse in Pyongyang could trigger war or an economically devastating flood of refu-gees from the North.

Washington, Seoul and Tokyo are trapped in the unenviable position of hoping for the disappearance of the world's most belligerent, irrational dictatorship, but wanting their wish not to be granted just yet.

Along with China, which has a direct interest in promoting the survival of a Communist-ruled buffer state on its border, the three allies are taking steps to bolster Kim Jong Il's rule as the best alternative to the unknown.

In private exchanges, China has assured the United States that with humanitarian relief and fuel aid North Korea can ride out the food shortages caused by devastation from two years of floods. The sanguine estimates of the Chinese parallel those of the CIA, which reportedly argues that the Pentagon's projections of starvation victims are alarmist.

The paucity of reliable information — Pyongyang blocks the outside world from getting a clear picture of how serious the food shortages really are, even as it appeals for more emergency aid — and the internal divisions over analysis have blocked any major reassessment of the soft landing policy.

The core of that policy is to support what Nicholas Eberstadt, writing in the current issue of Foreign Affairs magazine, calls "the prevailing consensus in Seoul: The South should try to plan for a reintegration with the North over a period of several decades, while the North reforms its polity and transforms its economy."

Mr. Eberstadt, a researcher connected with the American Enterprise Institute and Harvard, makes a provocative argument that this vision "is today nothing more than a fantasy." As time goes on, "North Korea will only grow economically poorer and militarily more dangerous. For all parties affected, from the peoples of northeast Asia to the powers of NATO, the faster reunification takes place, the better."

The North's political and economic backwardness and the South's economic dynamism mean that "both the relative and the absolute gap between the North's and South's per capita income will continue to widen." The cost of unification to Seoul will grow every year, he argues persuasively.

Moreover, "a continuing division of Korea invites a competitive proliferation" of atomic, biological and chemical weapons in northeast Asia and invites Japan to opt for nuclear defense. The costs to the United States of guarding against this nightmare scenario will grow every year and be less likely to succeed, Mr. Eberstadt continues.

Like most of us, he is better at describing the problem than at providing its solution. He does not claim to have a silver bullet. But he does cogently suggest that Washington and Seoul begin thinking seriously and jointly about Korean reconciliation now.

Seoul could publicly spell out the guarantees that could be provided to Northerners about their place in a united future. Washington should plan for the kind of clear, sustained diplomatic effort that the United States waged for German reunification.

These steps are officially unthinkable now because they implicitly acknowledge that diplomatic strategy is being overtaken by the rush of events. But the pace and direction of that rush — toward quick Korean reunification — become more apparent every day.

The Washington Post.

It's High Time to Prepare the Post-Castro Transition in Cuba

By Flora Lewis

MIAMI — It is here, in "Little Havana" along Calle Ocho (Eighth Street), more than in Washington, that policy toward Cuba is shaped. There have been important changes on both sides of the water that separates the United States from Cuba in the nearly two generations since Fidel Castro won his revolution, but U.S. policy has only grown harsher.

The political power developed by the exile community determines Washington's adamant stance, to the point of outraging America's friends and allies with the Helms-Burton law, which would punish some of their dealings with Cuba.

The assumption is that the exiles can wreak revenge on any U.S. politician who offends them, and cost Florida's substantial vote in presidential elections. It has never been put to a real test, and signs are accumulating that it isn't true anymore, if it ever was. But so far the assumption outweighs serious calculation of basic American national interest, and produces the anomaly of long outliving the Cold War and the Soviet threat.

The question about Cuba now is not Mr. Castro's intentions but when and especially how he will go and how the successor regime will be formed. There is no doubt that his lengthy dictatorship is doomed. But it will make a big difference if it is followed by a Czech-type "velvet revolution" or by violence and upheaval.

For the United States, as for the great majority of Cubans, the need is for a reasonably smooth transition that offers the best prospects for a good neighborly relation in the future. That would mean, however, that the new regime will arise from the new generation inside Cuba, and the exile leaders will not be the ones to gain power.

Their interest is to provoke a situation where the United States would feel obliged to intervene and therefore help them install themselves. The experience of Haiti leaves no doubt that the United States would send the Marines if disorder made that seem necessary, despite the inevitably terrible reaction in Latin America and the rest of the world and the added burden on the bad legacy of history.

This produces an apparent conflict between U.S. policy interests and the short-term interest of American politicians heeding the angry rejection of any kind of "normalization" toward Cuba from exile leaders.

Two trivial recent incidents show how vigilant and assertive the exile establishment can be. One was the forced ouster of a local Spanish-language radio station manager because he played recordings of a Cuban musical group called Vanvan. His reason for using the music was not at all political but because younger people in the Miami audience liked it.

Another was the outburst against the Baltimore Orioles baseball team's willingness to play some demonstration games in Havana.

People who refused to disapprove of such minor contacts were denounced as "traitors," "Communists" and such. There have been fire bombings and death threats, as well as effective retribution on jobs and business opportunities, against those who don't uphold the insistence on rigid hostility to Cuba.

The Cuban American National foundation, the immensely vigorous lobby run by Jorge Mas Canosa, maintains a climate which critics say imposes a reign of fear and terror no less than the Castro regime on its territory.

They consider Mr. Mas Canosa as just as authoritarian in his style and ambitions as Mr. Castro. He and his coterie have acquired very big amounts of money, raising allegations of large-scale corruption.

Some Miami opponents say running the "anti-Castro industry" here is so lucrative that even if Mr. Mas Canosa never gets to go to Cuba and take power, he finds maintaining the status quo well worthwhile.

But the community is not what it used to be. Immigrants who came well after the revolution are not the same kind of people as the early wave. There is a new generation comfortable in America, and the expectation is that not more than 10 to 20 percent would want to go back to a de-Castroized Cuba.

Further, the Hispanic population of Miami has changed with immigration from Central and South America, and they resent the preachy and, they say, greedy Cubans. People with Cuban backgrounds now represent 60 percent of local Hispanics, compared with 85 percent some years ago.

It is likely that easing the restrictions on travel, remittances and at least cultural contacts would be popular, despite the certain fury it would bring from Mr. Mas Canosa's group. He is rumored to be gravely ill, and he runs such a tight one-man show that nobody can guess what would happen if he disappeared.

In any case, Washington is deeply bogged down in its hostility to Cuba just when it should be looking to develop a peaceful transition and future ties. Eastern Europe has shown that organizing after communism is not easy and needs to be prepared.

Current U.S. policy is cutting off its nose to spite its face, to the benefit of none but a small group of self-serving die-hards and at the risk of worse trouble ahead.

© Flora Lewis.

Japanese Failure? No, Continued Success Looks More Likely

By Fred Hiatt

TOKYO — Outside Narita airport, a green-uniformed youth stamps your ticket, stows your luggage and then bounds aboard the downtown bus to bow and thank you for your patronage. This provides an early clue that the vaunted steamroller of globalization has yet to flatten every unique aspect of Japan's political economy.

Other signs appear in short order: the hotel bellhop who refuses a tip, the tiny mom-and-pop tofu makers that still dot Tokyo's neighborhoods, the news that Toyota's chairman has offered his workers more than their union demanded.

All of these might have been taken, five or six years ago, as proof of Japan's superiority — of its work ethic, pride in service, neighborhood cohesion and cooperative management-labor relations. Today they are more likely to be seen as signs of Japan's failure — its failure to adapt to the American model of ruthlessly efficient capitalism, now heralded as the only road to success in an increasingly unforgiving global economy.

But today's rather self-satisfied predictions of Japanese eclipse may turn out to be more wrong than the alarmist warnings of imminent Japanese dominance that were being sounded so recently.

There is no question but that the Japanese model is under strain, symbolized by the homeless men who now seem to inhabit every neighborhood park.

Developed during Japan's remarkable postwar boom, Japan Inc. was generally believed by the late 1980s ready to conquer the world. The model featured a close relationship between business and bureaucracy, a protected home market from which Japanese companies could comfortably stage their foreign invasions, and a pattern of interlocking ownership that allowed Japanese firms to take a long-term view — in sharp contrast, it was said back then, to Wall Street's destructive, quarterly report mentality.

In 1992 the "bubble" burst. Stock and real estate markets crashed, the economy stopped growing, Japanese tycoons no longer gobbled up Hollywood studios and Impressionist art.

Within the industrial democracies' triumvirate of economic models — Continental Europe, Japan and U.S.-Britain — the last seemed clearly superior, creating millions of jobs while the others tread water. Deregulation, entrepreneurship and venture capital were hailed. The U.S. model paid lip service to equality of opportunity but scorned Japan's attempts at equality of result. Japanese bureaucrats went from heroes to goats, and the cozy system of managed competition and long-term planning was suddenly declared unfit for the modern era.

This cartoonish view of Japanese failure appeals to many who feared the Japanese, but also is fed by many Japanese themselves. With an almost Puritan work ethic, a curmudgeon's suspicion of success and a fear of standing out, many Japanese seem to take their fall from grace as divine justice.

"We were so euphoric, so self-conceited and so ignorant as to what was happening in the information age," Yukio Okamoto, a diplomat turned consultant, said last week. One of Japan's most astute observers, Mr. Okamoto professed himself "quite pessimistic" about the economy — "worse even than it seems on the surface," he said.

But what does pessimism mean in the Japanese context?

It is possible that Japan really has entered a long period of decline, eventually to be overtaken and marginalized by China. But it is not likely. America's current fascination with the Chinese market notwithstanding, and despite China's extraordinary growth during the past decade, its economy is about one-eighth the size of Japan's. That means that China's economy can grow by 9 percent, as it did last year, and still fall further behind Japan, which grew by about 3 percent.

The sector of Japan's economy that competes abroad — the Toyotas, Toshibas and Sonys — "has probably never been stronger," says Kenneth Courtis, Deutsche Bank's chief economist and a perpetual booster of Japan's prospects. In Asia, North America and Europe, Japanese competition is becoming more fearsome, not less, and Japan's trade surplus is surging again.

It is possible that this export sector will thrive while the rest of Japan's economy stagnates — the overregulated, inefficient service sector and the overprotected manufacturers who don't compete abroad dragging down standards of living. Under this scenario, the Toshibas and Toyotas will increasingly move overseas to escape Japan's high costs, becoming more global and less Japanese in the process. Japan's rapidly aging population (with little immigration to replenish the work force) also will encourage this trend.

It is happening slowly so far — Japan's overseas production represents a much smaller share of its economy than America's — but it *will* gain speed, absent real deregulation. And so far, despite reform rhetoric from every political party, Japan has not shown the will for deregulation, with the pain it implies for small farmers, shopkeepers and (not least) bureaucrats.

The government's long, fussy lists of proposed deregulatory actions testify mostly to bureaucrats' determination to keep control. Last week's offering of 870 items included, among other radical measures, allowing convenience stores to sell vitamins.

A third scenario also remains possible: that Japan reshapes itself sufficiently to remain powerful and prosperous. Reform inevitably would jeopardize some virtues of Japan's unique system — the security of lifetime employment, say — but it would not be likely to turn Japan into another America.

Twice before in the modern era, Japan has managed to swallow huge changes while remaining essentially Japanese. Despite the current mood of American triumphalism, not every country will converge to a single model of capitalism, even in this more interconnected era.

A few years from now, in fact, the current triumphalism may seem a bit overstated. The U.S. model, after all, features worker anxiety, modest growth levels and a ruthlessly neglected underclass, while the economy grew faster in "failed" Japan last year than in any other Group of Seven country, according to projections by the OECD.

With a bank crisis still looming, Japan has yet to turn its last corner. But with low unemployment and crime rates, relative equality and universal education, it remains a society that works in fundamental ways. Even gloomy Mr. Okamoto says he expects Japan to take off again after "a few more years." Then he sighs deeply, as if that were an almost unbearable wait.

The Washington Post.

What Japan Needs Is Freer Markets

A DECADE ago, Japan was cast as a juggernaut destined to pass America as the richest nation. By now it is probable that this will never happen. The U.S. economy has just completed its sixth year of expansion; Japan limps along. Since 1991, U.S. economic growth (nearly 14 percent) is more than twice Japan's (6 percent).

The moral is the importance of microeconomics. Success often depends on how individual markets — for products, labor and investment — work. Or don't.

Until recently, economists thought that governments could control growth through "macroeconomics" — shifts in interest rates, taxes and budget surpluses or deficits. What we have learned is that these tools confer only limited power.

If markets don't operate well, neither will the economy. Europe has already shown this. Its labor markets, characterized by rigid wages and generous jobless benefits, have raised unemployment to double-digit levels. Now Japan confirms the lesson.

By standard macroeconomic indicators, Japan ought to be booming. Interest rates are low. Budget deficits have been rising. In 1996 the U.S. deficit equaled about 1.6 percent of GDP; in Japan the deficit was 4.1 percent. Trillions of yen went for public works projects (roads, bridges, arenas) to spur the economy. The fact that Japan resorts to easy monetary policy and lax fiscal policy confirms that its feeble domestic markets cannot generate strong expansion.

What we call "the economy" is producing and consuming, buying and selling. Conditions must exist for people and companies to make mutually advantageous bargains. The "market" is merely the word describing this process. If it is obstructed, economic growth suffers. The effect of high and rigid prices is to disarm consumer spending as a powerful force for economic growth.

What Japan really needs is freer markets. Even the Japanese now admit that something is wrong. Their latest economic enthusiasm is "deregulation." But do they really understand why it is important? Only if markets are given a chance to work will the economy be able to grow.

— Robert J. Samuelson, commenting in The Washington Post.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1897: Bucket Shops

NEW-YORK — [The Herald says in an Editorial:] The result of the Herald's investigations of the bucket shops was very curious. Like the jarring of a spider's web, when one part was touched the whole fabric began to rock, and tremendous commotion ensued among bankers and brokers and men with infallible systems for winning other people's money by speculating in grain or stocks. A great many of these human spiders were evidently working in concert and spinning a gigantic web to entrap foolish flies from all over the country.

1922: Battling Booze

WASHINGTON — Prohibition Director Day, of New York, has asked the Federal Government to adopt military measures to end the flood of liquor across the Canadian border of New York. His program asks for the supplying of machine-guns, armored motor-cars and an observation post on every road crossing the border, which, he believes, is the only way to halt "thugs, gunmen and ex-convicts" from rushing rum-laden automobiles across the border every night.

1947: Berlin Manhunt

BERLIN — The Big Four powers in Berlin, aided by 5,000 German police, spread a dragnet across this eighth-largest city in the world in the greatest manhunt Berlin has known since the Russian search for Adolf Hitler. Major General Frank A. Keating, American Military Governor in Berlin, said targets were Russian and American Army deserters, black-marketeers, war criminals and any persons illegally in the city. The round-up will last twenty-four hours.

OPINION/LETTERS

The War on Smugness In the Anti-Drug Fight

By A. M. Rosenthal

NEW YORK — In the decade I have been writing about drugs and the drug war I have been getting a bonus that gets bigger every year, and more valuable.

The bonus is a collection of friends across the country, widely varied but united by the belief that drug addiction is an American plague that must be fought by every legal technique from teaching and therapy to jail time and with the passion, intellect and energy that America can muster when it understands a danger is clear, present and continuing.

This column is for them — those professional therapists, police officers, doctors, lawyers, teachers, politicians who entered the struggle, and those Americans who give their time, money and emotion not because drugs are related to their work but because of the danger of narcotics to the mind and safety of the nation.

But this is not a thank-you note at all. The purpose is to wring the smugness out of the anti-drug movement — mine included.

We know the drug war is not lost but being won. We know that except for marijuana among children, a dangerous except, drug abuse is going down; 10 million fewer users now than in 1985. We know that without the drug war we would be drowning in more addiction and therefore more crimes and disease than the country has known.

But this is to warn my friends that the determination to fight drugs actively is being drained and weakened and that we must start exacting a price from those who are doing it. The price is exposure, followed by withdrawal of social, peer and professional respect, the only penalty they fear.

I am not interested now in trying to turn around Americans who finance or propagandize for the lie that the drug war is lost, or push measures that would lead to more use of drugs.

When the time comes that they offer narcotics to their own children, or forgo the therapy and attention that their money and status can buy for their children, then I may try again to take their minds out of the deep freeze of their own selfishness.

I used to think maybe we anti-drug types paid too much attention to the minority of detractors of the drug war. I did not fully grasp their financial strength, their own foundation network, nor the fact that by grants it reached into nondrug foundations. And I did not understand the extent to which so many intellectuals had walked away from the struggle or used their influence to demean it — and were getting away fat and free.

The Arizona and California victories for the marijuana "medicalization" propositions were bugles. The key players were the financier George Soros and his money. He and the foundations he created plan to use their power to win "medicalization" primaries all over the country.

But no criticism of Mr. Soros came from the White House. Journalists rushed to defend him. The use of money does not have to be illegal to be contemptible or damage the country.

Please note that in my list of anti-drug comrades, journalists and writers are absent.

When ABC recently ran a monthlong series of programs and spots stressing the need for parents to talk to children about drugs, the journalistic responses were embarrassingly anti-intellectual sneers that the last program got "only" 4 million viewers and triumphant proclamations that the drug war was lost, good riddance.

Government and organizational anti-drug money is targeted for law enforcement, interdiction and therapeutic work. With far less money — a relatively few million — the backdoor legalizers can direct their work to win "medicalization" primaries and to denounce all who oppose them.

Yes, parents must talk to children about drug use. But parents must also talk to them, and particularly to other parents, about the propaganda against the drug war, about campaigns that can spread the use of drugs without taking the responsibility for it. They should talk about the foundations involved and their subcontractors, and about journalists and intellectuals who help them or just look away.

It will not take more money to talk and write about these things, or put them into anti-drug ads, just enough courage to expect nasty counterattack. Maybe one day the White House might work up that much, too.

The New York Times.

From Har Homa to Gaza: A Middle East Vacation

By Hope Keller

ON A BLUSTERY afternoon, just after the rain has stopped, I'm climbing the muddy hill of Har Homa. It's closer to Bethlehem than downtown West Jerusalem, a bare hillside that the Arabs call Jabal Abu Ghneim and that the Israelis have picked as the site for a new Jewish housing project. The bulldozers are

MEANWHILE

supposed to start any minute; the showdown is about to begin.

I hadn't planned on being here in this bitter wind, wearing beige slacks now spattered with dirt. After an absence of 13 years I'd come back to Israel, where I'd lived for a year, for a much-needed rest — in hindsight not the most intelligent of vacation plans. I'd been in Jerusalem an hour when, my elementary Hebrew resurfacing, I understood from a taxi radio that the bulldozers were about to start.

How to resist? I told the driver to go to Har Homa.

The ground is thick mud, but clear pools glisten in the hollows of rocks on the way up the hill, which is circled by Israeli soldiers. At the top, reporters, protesters, more soldiers, Palestinian police and the occasional dignitary mill around, some taking shelter from the blast behind a small stone house. The wind tears at the Palestinian flags and a tent encampment set up to protest Israel's decision to build here.

Cell phones are going off like crickets; false alerts run through the crowd. The bulldozers are coming. The surveyors are here. Netanyahu's called another meeting. People wander to the hill's edge to scan below. On the way here we passed the bulldozers, mounted on flatbed trucks with an army escort, ready to move out.

But now the journalists are getting bored. Some begin heading back down so I follow, over the low stone walls that terrace the hillside.

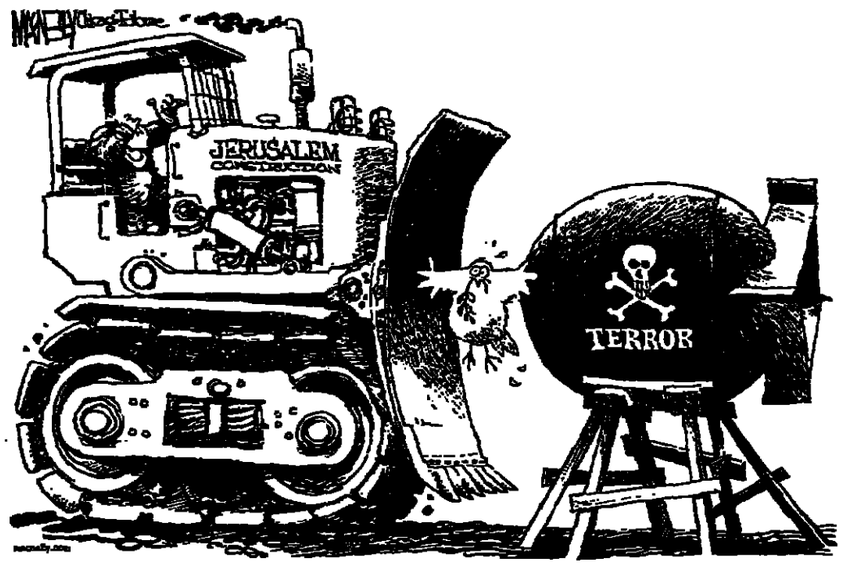
Driving out through the Israeli checkpoint and down the road again, we come upon the flatbed trucks, empty now. Here, at the base of the hill — in an area screened from the summit by pines — is where the action is.

A big Caterpillar rears forward and makes the first gouge in the earth, carving a brown trench. Helicopters buzz overhead, and the entourage of army vehicles blocks the road. TV crews and photographers scramble into the field to get the picture.

•

Three days later, I've just boarded a bus in Tel Aviv to go back to Jerusalem when the radio announces that a bomb has gone off in a Tel Aviv café.

Israeli intelligence services had warned that construction on Har Homa would trigger Arab violence. Now, Benjamin Netanyahu says Yasser Arafat has given a "green light" to Hamas to resume terror attacks against Israel. The Palestinian leader denies this, and Hamas is silent, not issuing its trademark statement of responsibility.



A few days later, I ask a friend to recommend a restaurant for dinner. He begins to name a place, then stops.

"I can't tell you to go anywhere," he apologizes. "I can't have that on my head."

•

Another journalist and I go to Gaza City to try to talk to the Hamas political leaders. It's a chaotic, dusty town, with construction crews busy on the west end, near the sea, where money channeled to Mr. Arafat's Palestinian Authority is being conspicuously spent.

Mahmoud Zahar, a physician and Hamas spokesman, has nothing to say about the Tel Aviv suicide bombing.

"I have no statement about what happened. I'm not going to tell anybody."

Was the bomber a Hamas member? "Yes."

Was Hamas responsible? "Maybe."

His office is a small ground-floor room on a back street, old-fashioned: an examining table, a scale, a glass-fronted medicine cabinet and the desk where he sits.

Why no statement? "That's our evaluation. No comment."

But he indicates more violence should be expected: "No country ever established itself without sacrifices. What we are doing is serving our goal."

He rises to see us to the door. Outside, his patients are waiting.

International Herald Tribune.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jerusalem's Status

The status of Jerusalem is neither a purely Palestinian nor Arab issue. It is an Islamic issue of crucial importance to Muslims.

A lack of accommodation of Muslim religious feelings and historical political interests in this regard would have far-reaching consequences.

Regrettably, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policy on Jerusalem is vindicating the "clash of civilizations" thesis of the Harvard scholar Samuel Huntington, with whom I disagree but whom Mr. Netanyahu seems bent on proving right.

GAILAN M. RAMIZ.
Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.

A Plan for Peru

The Tupac Amaru rebels holding 72 hostages at the Japanese Embassy residence in Lima are Peruvian citizens trying to call attention to the miserable poverty of many of their countrymen.

Neither President Alberto Fujimori nor his predecessors have done anything about this matter. But while the government may not care, the people do.

President Fujimori should go back to Cuba and ask Fidel Castro to grant asylum not just to the rebels but also to their 400-plus comrades now held in Peru's jails.

There is no other possible solution except the use of force, which would result in loss of life among the hostages and their captors and otherwise solve nothing.

Then the Tupac Amaru members should be permitted to return to their country to form a legitimate political party, able to fight legally to end their countrymen's affliction.

Only then will Peru be able to claim that it is a democratic country.

EDUARDO SCHAMESOHN.
Annemasse, France.

Old Mystery

Regarding "The Disappearance of Jim Thompson" (March 26):

I would like to add the following to the story about the American silk magnate who disappeared mysteriously in Malaysia 30 years ago.

Soon after Mr. Thompson's disappearance, the French ambassador to Malaysia raised the issue with one of Malaysia's Chinese community leaders.

"And what," replied the latter, "if he had been run over and killed, and the driver had taken fright, buried him in the jungle and told only his closest friends?"

For Newsweek, I later went to Malaysia's Cameron Highlands to try to retrace Mr. Thompson's steps. The narrow, winding roads, bordered by thick jungle and frequented by speeding vehicles, made walking a hazard.

Was the Chinese patriarch trying to convey a message? The French ambassador certainly thought so.

EDWARD BEHR.
Ramatuelle, France.

RIO + 5: SIGNALS OF CHANGE

World Business Council for Sustainable Development

FOURTH IN A SERIES

FIVE YEARS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE THE SUMMIT IN RIO IN 1992. TODAY, GOVERNMENTS, BUSINESSES AND CONSUMERS ARE MORE AWARE THAN EVER OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.

In the 1960s and 1970s, "save the planet" was the rallying cry of environmentalists. At the same time, another group of activists lobbied for the equal distribution of wealth between nations. These contradictory calls were messages that industry could not easily relate to or act upon. As a result, business was seen as the cause of environmental problems, and political leaders were unsure about how to take action.

The road to Rio: environment on the agenda

In a milestone event, business leaders, governments and nongovernmental organizations met in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio to lay the foundations for a unique approach to the environment: Agenda 21. For the first time, society recognized that business could play a leading role in helping to achieve sustainable development. Responding to environmental issues was both a challenge and an opportunity. It was a challenge for businesses to align their practices with the aspirations encapsulated in the phrase "sustainable development" – meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations. But above all, it was an opportunity for companies to take the lead in finding answers.

Eco-efficiency – producing more with fewer resources and less pollution – is certainly one of these new ideas that can bring about change and help achieve sustainable development.

Taking stock of the environment

Five years after the Rio summit, environmental issues have become more important than ever to companies, governments and society in general. In June, the United Nations General Assembly Special Session will meet in New York, and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development will be there to show government leaders and others the progress its members have made on meeting the goals of Agenda 21. There is no doubt that business, perhaps more than any other shareholder, will have many examples of positive change to show.

Business takes the lead

In the report "Signals of Change: Business Progress Towards Sustainable Development," the WBCSD examines the breadth of activity under way.

In just five years, business has converted the principles of sustainable development into practical ideas. It has devised new tools to use fewer resources and less energy, and to cut waste and pollution; it has broken the "green wall" and made environmental management a key part of its strategies; it has moved from narrow lobbying to open and voluntary discussions with key sectors of society. In short, business has clearly shown that caring for the environment makes good business sense.

All these actions are "signals of change," and they add up to an identifiable change in course. They signal a paradigm shift in the way business does business. It is a shift from a fractured view of environmental and development issues to a holistic view of business and sustainable development. These shifts are occurring at different speeds in different places, and different industries have set their own priorities for sustainable development – but changes are definitely under way.

Trends toward sustainability

Trends suggest that business will need to pay more attention to sustainable development to remain competitive. Banks and insurers will follow more closely the eco-efficiency of a company, investors will increasingly reward responsible companies and nonpolluting technologies, and tougher enforcement of regulations seems likely in the future. In addition, the media and consumers are becoming too sophisticated to allow companies to pretend: They expect real corporate action on environmental issues. The WBCSD is a testimony to this change.

The road ahead

Business cannot act alone, however. Sustainable development is a process that requires commitment from all sectors of society. Policy makers must work with business to devise frameworks that allow realistic goals to be developed and met. Business is playing its role and will continue to do so. Society can move toward sustainable development as soon as it declares that it really wants to.

What Is the WBCSD?

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development is a business group of 122 companies from 37 countries that share a commitment to the environment and the principles of economic growth and sustainable development. It encourages high standards of environmental management in business.

The WBCSD also benefits from a regional network located in developing countries and countries in transition, representing more than 600 business leaders.

The WBCSD aims at developing closer cooperation between business, governments, nongovernmental and other organizations concerned with sustainable development.

The Report

"Signals of Change: Business Progress Towards Sustainable Development" was written by three leading industrialists who have demonstrated their environmental commitment: Stephan Schmidheiny, chairman of Anova; Rodney Chase, managing director of British Petroleum; and Livio DeSimone, chairman and chief executive officer of 3M and chairman of the WBCSD.

The report records the progress business has made toward sustainable development, focusing on the practical experiences of WBCSD member companies and national BCSDs.

Copies, priced at £10, may be obtained from E&Y Direct: fax: (44 1202) 661999. Please contact E&Y for a complete list of WBCSD publications.

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NEW YORK FASHION

Personality: It's What Makes A Cutting Edge

By Suzy Menkes
International Herald Tribune

NEW YORK — American fashion is suffering from repressed personality syndrome. Timid designers, afraid either to go forward or go for it, offer the current basics: the baggy mannish pantsuit, the sexy side-split skirt, offset by a sweeping long coat. What they don't come up with is a personal point of view.

Among the similar and familiar shows, you yearn for someone with the guts to take a stand. Todd Oldham lit up the fall season by doing just that. His show of short, bright clothes — each group the visual equivalent of a crisp sound bite — expressed a strong and exuberant personality.

The refined romance of Richard Tyler also created an individual look. Marc Jacobs showed a luxurious and modern collection, although it missed the zest that can take minimalism to the max.

Oldham's show of vibrant colors and patterns (runway and backdrop included) came from his psychedelic psyche. Out tumbled knitted tweeds with matching boots, fake chamois leather dresses and crewel-embroidered or magic-carpet coats. It might have seemed too much. But the most touching part was that the animal rights champion, as though playing to the current revival of fur, created bravura effects with dashing faux-mink turbans, sequin-scattered leopard prints, Fauvist spike-heel boots and a mock-chinchilla cape.

"I don't want to use the real stuff and I am happy to find good alternatives," said Oldham, taking bravos backstage from the actors Susan Sarandon and Tim Robbins. Also in the audience was Wolfgang Ley of Escada, who praised the designer's sparky MTV vision and said he would launch Oldham next year as designer of the company's Apriori line.

Ley also showed up for his proteges Mark Badgley and James Mischka, who have created a niche for themselves with decorative evening dresses. Inspired by the diamond butterflies fluttering in the hair and lacy antique necklaces, Badgley Mischka proved a point: that decoration seems appropriate when the glitter is tarnished and the look becomes *neo-vintage*.

Moore/Thomas

Todd Oldham's printed dress and quilted wrap.

JACOBS'S approach was also modern. The designer enriched basic shapes — knee-length skirts, sweaters and coats — with a subtle sparkle. Now that Jacobs is backed by Louis Vuitton, who will finance his new SoHo shop and have him design Vuitton clothing, the luxe side of the designer's vision came to the fore.

But where once Jacobs would give his new-generation *sportswear an ultra-cool urban and club-land twist, now he* seems to repress that spirit. His design personality came through in the mixed textures of cloud-gray tweeds and flannels with occasional flashes of sweet sky blue and sunny orange. The collection seemed a clean and pure fashion canvas, à la Jil Sander or Gucci, against which those Vuitton bags will shine.

After his ethereal summer show, Tyler's collection remained earthbound until he unveiled the evening clothes: barely-there dresses, open at one side with noodle-narrow straps across the bared back, or given texture with lace and tulle embroideries and faint feather patterns.

The flip side of that decorative femininity was the tailoring, which Tyler had loosened up to the current slouchy boy-meets-girl look. But the designer remained true to his design personality by making both pepper-and-salt tweeds and pinstripes in curvy, body-skimming shapes.

More super-subtle decoration came from Marc Eisen, who incorporated sparkle into brief dresses and simple cardigans or added a jet-bead edging to necks and sleeves. The show was filled with well-proportioned, close-to-the body clothes jogging briskly with current trends like tuxedo-striped pants, gauzy knits and leather, given an antique finish.

Since women designers tend to envision themselves in their clothes, *four came up with different modes of self-expression.* Betsey Johnson is so determined to be Ms. Personality Plus that she turned cartwheels down the runway, following her show of medieval-inspired dresses with hipster chastity belts for fashion damsels in distress.

Isabel Toledo was a model of subtlety and refinement, showing genuine design imagination in the way that simple dresses had scarves slotted through to gather and decorate the fabrics. She also showed her cutting skills with soft jersey *dresses, draped or sharply tailored.*

Caroline Herrera, whose fashion nature is ladylike, careered downtown. From the urban jungle she plucked tiger and leopard prints, black leather and fake-fur trimmings (just when hip young designers are doing the real thing). But evening dresses were conventionally sassy in fluid jersey or lace.

Norma Kamali remained true to herself, digging down to her fashion roots as a creator of the down coat. Tree-branch prints, camouflage military wear and suede were neatly described by *Kamali as "survival clothes with style."*

But can straight-up designer sportswear survive? Gianfranco Ferre's Gieffeffe line veered from narrow empire coats through hefty military gear. Individual pieces might work, but it was not the clearly focused expression of personality that a modern designer needs.

HEALTH/SCIENCE

TOMORROW: LEISURE

Out of Ashes, a Cornucopia

By John Noble Wilford
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — It was early evening in the rainy season when the villagers felt the ground shake and then probably trembled themselves at the sight of blasts of steam in the distance. They dropped what they were doing and fled, abandoning their thatch-roofed huts, fruit trees in full ripeness and unwashed dinner dishes. That was 14 centuries ago, around the year 590.

The people saved their lives but lost their village, which was buried virtually intact under more than 16 feet of fine ash from an erupting volcano half a mile away. Only now are archaeologists digging through the ash, at the site they call Ceren in El Salvador, and finding remains of the village so well preserved that it has been stamped with the inevitable sobriquet of Central American Pompeii.

David Lentz

Corn stored in an ancient bin at Ceren.

Paleoethnobotanists, in particular, are having a field day. At Ceren, these specialists in the uses of plants by early people have uncovered stores of ceramic vessels filled with beans, squash, cacao and other plant foods — dried but still recognizable after all these centuries.

As they examined the site in finer detail, botanists have even identified plants that had disappeared, though not without a trace. Some left delicate impressions of leaves, seeds or stems in the ash. Some that had completely decomposed left cavities in the packed ash. The cavities served as molds, which, when filled with dental plaster, produced clear replicas of plants. In this way, plaster casts re-created the corn cribs filled with unshucked ears as they looked the evening the volcano struck.

Archaeologists and botanists said Ceren was revealing for the first time much about the everyday lives of ordinary people in sixth-century Mesoamerica: their dwellings and crops, what they ate and how, their economy and how it contributed to the classic period of Maya civilization. Most explorations have concentrated on the grand ceremonial centers of the Maya rulers and priests.

"What we learn from Ceren," reported a team of scientists led by Dr. David L. Lentz of the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx, "is that people living on the fringes may have made a contribution to the development of Mayan culture by producing surpluses and providing resources necessary to sustain the larger centers."

The director of Ceren excavations, Dr. Payson Sheets, an archaeologist at the University of Colorado, said the stores of food, the abundance of finely painted ceramics and the evidence of trade goods showed this to be a prosperous community of farmers. In one of the more humble households, archaeologists counted more than 70 ceramic vessels.

"It's surprising, but also sad," Dr. Sheets said in an interview. "The standard of living 1,400 years ago was higher than it is now among the peasants of El Salvador."

The existence of the buried village first came to light in 1976, but it was more than a decade before intensive excavations got under way. So far, 11 buildings have been uncovered: dwellings, an obsidian workshop, a food storehouse, a sauna for ritual sweat baths, a religious center and a community hall. The structures had adobe walls and roofs of thatch made from a type of grass that is now extinct, apparently killed off by alien grasses from the Old World. Found in the surviving thatch were the bones of mice that had infested the roofs.

'Living Will' Seldom of Aid, Study Says

By Gina Kolata
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Despite intense publicity and exhortations to the public to write advance directives to guide decision-making at the end of life, *almost no dying patients have them*, researchers find. And when patients do have these directives, the documents make little or no difference in medical care.

The study, by Dr. Joan Teno and Dr. Joanne Lynn at the George Washington University Center to Improve Care for the Dying and their colleagues at seven other medical centers, involved 4,804 terminally ill patients. Only 688 had written directives, like a living will, to describe the kind of medical care a patient wants and does not want, or a durable power of attorney, which designates another person to make decisions if a patient cannot.

Of those 688 advance directives, only 22 contained instructions explicit enough to guide medical care. Even those instructions were contravened about half the time. Doctors knew about patients' advance directives only about one-quarter of the time.

The lesson, Dr. Lynn said, is that advance directives can accomplish little on their own. For example, she said, patients often say they do not want extraordinary care when all hope is gone. But, she said, that raised a question: When is all hope gone?

Dr. Lynn said many patients did not think that they were close to death. "Over and over again, they would say, 'I've got a living will, but I'm not sick enough yet.'" she said.

Dr. Teno said patients with advance directives sometimes changed their minds once they knew their options and prognosis. She said she liked to confront doctors with the case of one patient in the study who wrote "in big letters, 'no CPR, no gastric tube, no ventilator.'"

"I ask physicians, 'What would you do? Would you honor this advance directive if it was presented to you by a family member?'" Dr. Teno said. Invariably, the doctors say that, yes, they would honor it and that they would feel *legally obliged to do so. But when doctors and nurses spoke* to this man about his condition, Dr. Teno said, he changed his mind and said he wanted cardiopulmonary resuscitation and wanted to be put on a respirator.

"We have focused on putting things down on a piece of paper," Dr. Teno said. Instead, "we need to focus on communication and negotiation, of the physician and patient coming to an understanding of goals and then designing a plan of care and contingency plans."

BOOKS

RABIN: Our Life, His Legacy

By Leah Rabin. 320 pages. $24.95. Putnam.

RUBBER BULLETS: Power and Conscience in Modern Israel

By Yaron Ezrahi. 308 pages. $25. Farrar Straus Giroux.

Reviewed by Glenn Frankel

ISRAEL'S passage from a small, collectivist, garrison state under siege to a modern, bourgeois and pluralistic democracy is a hard road strewn with discarded myths and the blood of many martyrs. Leah Rabin's tear-stained memoir of life with her late husband and Yaron Ezrahi's powerful, clear-eyed treatise on Israel's inner turmoils are seemingly as different as fire and ice.

Yet the underlying theme of both is this national transformation: its triumphs and failures, its heroes and victims.

Leah Rabin, widow of the prime minister who made peace with the Palestinians and then was assassinated by a fellow Jew, makes no attempt to conceal her two agendas. The first is "to carry his message forward, to ignite again and again the brilliant light that was so brutally extinguished," she writes. "I am here to remind you of him." The second, unspoken but just as pressing, is to even accounts with any number of her husband's political enemies, including current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his Likud predecessor, Yitzhak Shamir. The Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, comes off far better than they do in her reckoning.

Leah Rabin was a political wife par excellence; her role, as she saw it, was not only to look after her husband but to keep score. An Israeli journalist recalled for me once how he had befriended Yitzhak Rabin in the late 1970s when the then former prime minister was languishing on the Israeli Labor Party's back benches. Rabin was grateful for my friend's attention. Then after Rabin returned from the political wilderness to become defense minister in 1984, the journalist wrote something mildly critical. Rabin had no particular problem with it — he probably didn't even read it — but Leah did. From then on my friend was persona non grata with the Rabin household. Lesson: You could toy with Yitzhak, but don't cross Leah. She took no prisoners.

How ironic, then, that it was Leah, lioness and protector, who cost her husband the premiership during his first round in office in the 1970s. She was the one who neglected to close the joint bank account they had kept in Washington when he had served as Israeli ambassador to the United States. Israeli residents are not allowed to have such accounts, and once the Rabins returned home they were in technical violation of the law. When the account became public in 1977, Rabin felt compelled to resign. She notes that he never chastised her over the incident, but she confesses she has no clue to the one beguiling question that remains about this well-documented affair: Why did Rabin choose to resign over such an inconsequential misdemeanor? "Yitzhak fundamentally kept his own counsel in this matter," she admits.

Too much of this memoir is in a similar vein: It offers facts we've already read elsewhere about Rabin's rise to army chief of staff, his controversial stint as defense minister during the Palestinian uprising, his two terms as prime minister, his signing of the Oslo peace accords and his murder. There are a few moments that reveal the human side of a leader known for terrorizing his subordinates as much as his enemies. Leah Rabin describes her husband's backseat driving and his love of children and animals. It is Rabin Lite, and it jars against the memory of the gruff, profane and gutsy leader we know from other portraits.

Like Leah Rabin, Yaron Ezrahi makes no attempt at objectivity. He begins his book by describing his conflicted feelings while watching a newscast on the Israeli army's harsh treatment of Palestinian stone throwers with his 84-year-old father and his 16-year-old son. He wants both to protect his father from seeing Israel's cherished citizen-army at its worst, yet to sear it into the consciousness of his son, who is due to enter the army in two years. "I was seized by the impulse to cover my father's eyes with my right hand," he writes, "while somehow keeping my son's eyes wide open with my left."

But "Rubber Bullets" is much more than a personal testament. Ezrahi, a professor of political science at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and a leader of the Israeli peace movement, is an intellectual detective who systematically uncovers clues to explain a nation's coming of age. He traces the slow rise of individualism in a society that started out as an ideologically oriented state where the needs of the community took precedence over freedom of choice.

The transformation has been far from smooth. Ezrahi describes the conflict between Zionist tradition and the emerging Israel as a "battle of the stories," in which the state's collective narrative clashes with the personal, private narrative of the individual.

OCCASIONALLY Ezrahi goes too far. He claims that the rubber bullets of his title, ammunition that the Israeli Army used at one point during the intifada as a purportedly nonlethal tool of riot control, marked a historic turning point in Israel's acceptance of Palestinians as a nation. But as I recall it, rubber bullets were just one of many dubious technological fixes that a desperate army tried and discarded during the course of the intifada. Also, Ezrahi's writing at times lapses into academic jargon.

But more often his prose sparkles with good sense and shrewd insights. He writes analysis in the best sense: taking small moments or decisions and weaving them into a convincing tapestry of social and ideological change.

Glenn Frankel, former Jerusalem bureau chief for The Washington Post and author of "Beyond the Promised Land: Jews and Arabs on the Hard Road to a New Israel," wrote this for The Post.

Puberty Surprisingly Early for U.S. Girls

By Susan Gilbert
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Challenging medical dogma but supporting doctors' observations, a new report shows that many girls in the United States are starting puberty far earlier than is widely considered normal.

The findings suggest that the textbook timetable of puberty onset, which is based on decades-old research on British white girls, is either outmoded or irrelevant in the United States.

Medical books say that it is abnormal for girls to show the first signs of puberty, like pubic hair and breast development, before the age of 8. But the new study found that a large percentage of American girls have one or both of these characteristics at 7 and, in some cases, even at 3.

The surprisingly early onset of puberty was true for white and African-American girls in the study. But there were significant racial differences, with African-Americans showing the first signs of sexual maturity, on average, slightly more than a year earlier than white girls.

Other studies have shown that the age of puberty onset varies considerably according to factors like race and ethnicity, nutrition, environmental conditions and geographic location.

But the authors say the new study, which appears in the current issue of Pediatrics, is the first large-scale, multiracial investigation of exactly when American girls begin puberty.

The research confirms what many doctors have suspected for years.

"The reason I did this study is that in my clinical practice, I was seeing a lot of young girls coming in with pubic hair and breast development, and it seemed like there were too many, too young," said Dr. Marcia E. Herman-Giddens, the principal investigator and an adjunct professor of maternal and child health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Public Health. "But I don't think any of us expected to see such a large proportion of girls developing this early."

The findings come from examinations of 17,077 girls from 3 years old to 12 years old in pediatricians' offices around the country. About 90 percent of the girls were white, and 10 percent were African-American.

The study found that by the age of 8, 15 percent of the white girls and 48 percent of the African-American girls had some breast development, pubic hair or both. In contrast, medical textbooks say that just 1 percent of girls younger than 8 show these signs of puberty.

In the study, the average age when puberty began was just under 9 years old for African-Americans and roughly 10 to 10½ for whites. Textbooks place the average age of puberty onset at between 11 and 12, according to the study.

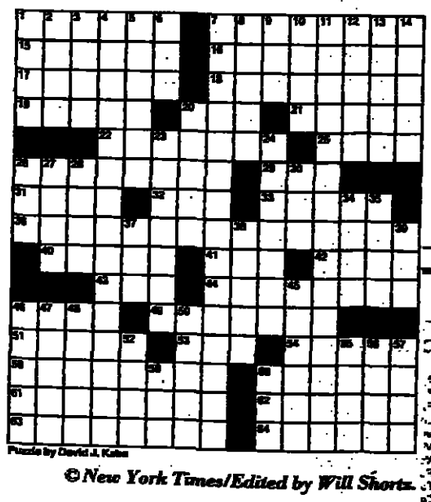
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 African scourge
7 Stepping
15 Ultimatum word
16 Orderly place
17 Takes in, for example
18 Trenchant
19 Light on the set: Var.
20 "It's no ——!"
21 Volcanic elements
22 These might cover fires
25 Amigos
28 Verdi masterpiece, with "La"
29 Concert prop
31 "—— Said" (Neil Diamond hit)
32 Agcy. issuance
33 October handout
35 Quick hands artist
40 "Have —— day"
41 ——Magnon
42 Tooth part
43 Integration symbol
44 Lower jaw
46 Black shade
49 1951 Giant hero
51 "—— moi . . ."
53 Some clock-radios, or their settings
54 Quick
58 Food poisoning
60 You can count on it
61 Jerry Seinfeld contemporary
62 Stomach corrosion
63 Least sufficient
64 Sofa type

DOWN

1 Shipbuilding wood
2 Shades' stopping point
3 Suffix with disk
4 H. G. Wells's mad scientist
5 Composer Rachmaninoff
6 Hesitant sounds
7 Favorite 60's song of 36-Across?
8 Actress Blakley
9 Computer key: Abbr.
10 Make —— of oneself
11 Favorite feat of 4-Down?
12 "—— far, far better thing . . ."
13 This may be contemplated
14 Daily's TV co-star
20 You, in the Yucatán
23 Most cautious
24 Olympic roster
26 Longtime Capitol Hill nickname
27 —— avis
30 Revival word
30 "D.C. Cab" actor
34 From —— (opening bit)
36 Drive (along)
37 Fort Worth sch.
38 Lab units
39 Homophone of 42-Across: Abbr.
45 Within reach
46 Melville's Vere and others: Abbr.
47 Instrument's lens
48 Bakery attraction
50 Big name in briefs
52 1972 agreement, for short
55 "Rhyme Pays" rapper
56 Bait, sometimes
57 Actual being
59 View on the Seine
60 Out of: Ger.



Puzzle by David J. Kahn

© New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz

Solution to Puzzle of April 9

S	A	S	S		I	D	L	E	S		P	L	A	Y
A	R	L	O		B	O	I	S	E		R	E	N	E
H	E	A	D	S	E	T	T	E	R		O	C	T	A
L	A	P		C	R	E	E		E	S	T	H	E	R
			W	E	I	R		I	N	T	O			
F	A	B	I	N	A		C	R	E	S	C	E	N	T
O	P	I	N	E		G	A	O	L		O	L	I	O
R	A	N	G		R	U	N	N	Y		L	U	N	A
E	R	G	S		E	Y	E	S		O	L	D	A	S
S	T	O	P	O	V	E	R		D	R	I	E	S	T
			A	P	E	D		H	A	T	E			
P	L	A	N	A	R		S	O	P	H		S	E	N
R	A	N	I		S	H	A	M	P	O	O	D	L	E
O	K	I	E		E	A	S	E	L		T	A	M	S
D	E	L	L		S	T	E	R	E		T	K	O	S

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

SOMETIMES a slam contract that appears hopeless can come home because the opposing cards lie favorably.

An example is the diagramed deal from a Von Zedtwitz Double Knockout Team match in Manhattan. After West had shown the red suits with an unusual two notrump, North-South climbed optimistically to six clubs. This seemed doomed to lose a spade trick and a heart trick, but the slam was difficult to defeat.

West diamond lead was won with the ace, the club ace was cashed and a heart was led to the king. West took his ace, and when he continued with the diamond queen the slam could not be defeated.

South ruffed in dummy, led to the heart queen and ruffed his remaining diamond. Then four rounds of trumps ending in the closed hand produced the ending shown at right:

On the last trump, a spade was thrown from dummy, and East was helpless. West had missed three chances to beat the slam, all difficult. He could have led a spade originally. He could have shifted to a spade after winning the heart ace. Or he could have allowed the heart king to win the third trick, planning later to shift to a spade or lead a third heart.

NORTH
♠ K 9 6
♡ 10 8 4
◇ 4
♣ A K Q 9 7 4

WEST
♠ J 4
♡ A 9 7 6 3
◇ K Q J 10 6
♣ 5

EAST
♠ Q 10 8 5 3
♡ J 6 2
◇ 9 7 5 2
♣ 2

SOUTH (D)
♠ A 7 2
♡ K Q
◇ A 8 3
♣ J 10 8 6 3

Neither side was vulnerable.

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	2 N.T.	Dbl.	3 ◇
Pass	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
6 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

West led the diamond king.

NORTH
♠ K 9 6
♡ 10
◇ —
♣ —

WEST
♠ J 4
♡ 9
◇ J
♣ —

EAST
♠ Q 10 8
♡ J
◇ —
♣ —

SOUTH
♠ A 7 2
♡ —
◇ —
♣ 10

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Herald Tribune INTERNATIONAL

BUSINESS/FINANCE

Apple Faces Showdown With IBM

PC Firm's Survival Bid Causes Rift in Alliance

By John Markoff
New York Times Service

SAN FRANCISCO — In a showdown that could deal a final blow to the shaky personal-computing alliance between Apple Computer Inc. and International Business Machines Corp., the two companies are trying to renegotiate licensing fees for Apple's Macintosh operating-system software.

Apple, financially troubled and struggling to find a turnaround strategy, has shown signs lately of regretting its decision two years ago to allow various other companies to clone its Macintosh computers. It has proposed raising Macintosh license fees as much as tenfold to slow the clones' erosion of Apple's own sales.

Two weeks ago, according to executives close to the company, Apple notified IBM that the fees would be raised even for IBM, its longtime partner. That opened a rift that the two companies are trying to bridge.

The issue could mean the end of the so-called PowerPC alliance that IBM and Apple created in 1991 along with Motorola Inc. to try to challenge the supremacy in the personal-computer industry of machines based on Intel Corp.'s chips and Microsoft Corp.'s software.

IBM and Apple executives planned to confer Wednesday to discuss their differences, people familiar with the negotiations said. Both companies declined to comment.

The dispute parallels complaints from other Macintosh clone makers. Critics say Apple is trying to box out the clone makers that have become a growing threat to sales of Apple's machines, which, like the clones, use PowerPC chips made by Motorola and IBM as well as Apple's Macintosh software.

The dispute underscores Apple's increasing peril: The most profitable parts of its business are those most at risk from competitors. By raising licensing fees on software used with the most powerful versions of the PowerPC chips, Apple has been attempting to reserve to itself the most lucrative segment of the Macintosh market — the fastest machines, which can sell for $6,000 or more.

Gerald Martineau/The Washington Post

Departure From Confrontation

By Adam Bryant
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — It is the story of the U.S. airline industry these days. With carriers generating record profits, many union workers want raises, testing their leverage against executives who say big pay increases would make their airlines less competitive.

Pilots and managers have squared off at AMR Corp.'s American Airlines and UAL Corp.'s United Airlines, and Continental Inc.'s pilots said last week that they wanted a 38 percent raise.

In this atmosphere of confrontation, the approach of Stephen Wolf, chairman of US Airways Group Inc., is an ambitious departure. Mr. Wolf wants to lower costs sharply, but he wants to do it with labor's help.

As he tries to turn around the airline, which has lost $2.4 billion in the last decade, he has vowed that there would be no power struggle.

"No one has any leverage," he said in November.

That, at least, is the appearance Mr. Wolf has managed to keep up since taking over US Airways a year ago.

But in reality, the industry is driven by leverage, and Mr. Wolf is emerging as one of the more subtle practitioners of the art.

If Mr. Wolf does not get his way, he is likely to use measured steps, like the steady shrinking of the airline, to win an agreement with labor leaders without direct confrontation.

This week, Mr. Wolf kicks off a series of meetings with employees at which he will undoubtedly try to persuade them that more drastic measures are needed — sooner rather than later — to bring US Airways' high costs in line with those of its rivals.

And in a letter to shareholders in the company's just-released annual report, Mr. Wolf wrote that the airline is approaching "a fork in the road."

Clearly, one path heads toward a cost-cutting deal. The second direction, though, would surely not be the status quo.

Timothy Ross, an analyst at SBC-Warburg, said that, to get the attention

INTERNATIONAL MANAGER

of labor leaders, Mr. Wolf may start cutting unprofitable routes.

That task will become less costly after June, with the expiration of a "no furlough" clause in the pilots' contracts that pays them whether the airline needs them or not. "He may give a glimpse of the iron fist that is inside the velvet glove," Mr. Ross said.

Such a strategy would represent a subtle but important distinction from Mr. Wolf's years as chief executive of United Airlines, where he threatened layoffs and asset sales, with deadlines often attached, if labor did not go along with his plans.

If Mr. Wolf is successful in lowering costs by working with unions, not battling them, it will mark a rare victory in this industry, where this goal has eluded most executives, who have been seen either as too confrontational or too conciliatory.

Mr. Wolf's determination not to fight also hints at what motivated him, in January 1996, to take over at US Airways, America's sixth-largest airline, a clear step down after running United, the nation's largest.

Mr. Wolf has long shown a lack of interest in talking about himself, and has declined all requests for interviews since coming to US Airways. Yet what he says and does tend to be calibrated as precisely as a jet-engine blade. And thus far, his actions and words have led to remarkable progress: US Airways is more prosperous than ever, with record profits of $263.4 million last year.

Like most airlines, US Airways has benefited in recent years from a strong economy and a more disciplined approach to limiting its supply of seats.

That gives airlines more control over pricing, and they have raised fares sharply, particularly for last-minute travel. US Airways also has a lock on many routes in the Northeast, where a large percentage of its passengers are business people who pay the highest fares.

Such profits make it difficult for workers to swallow the notion that cuts are urgently needed. All three major unions at the company are negotiating new contracts, and Mr. Wolf is saying to them, in effect: Work with me, and this airline will be bigger and better than ever.

If union leaders have any doubts, they are not sharing them publicly. Mr. Wolf has asked them not to negotiate in the media, and calls to officials representing flight attendants and mechanics were not returned.

A spokesman for the pilots, Jim Gardner, said only, "From top to bottom, all of us at US Airways are committed to successfully and profitably meeting our competitive challenges."

Innocuous as that statement sounds, there appears to be some truth to it, at least for now.

Thailand Tumbles From Top Debt Rating

Moody's Cites Political Instability

By Seth Mydans
New York Times Service

BANGKOK — Despite pleas from government officials, Moody's Investor Services Inc. downgraded Thailand's long-term credit rating Wednesday, a sharp confirmation that one of Southeast Asia's highest fliers had run into tough economic times.

The American rating company said it had based its action on economic and political factors. Although the country's economic fundamentals were sound, it said, Thailand's unstable, personality-based coalition governments were poorly suited to address a host of problems in a coherent way.

The ratings change sent the baht lower, as the dollar rose slightly to a seven-year high of 26.10 baht. A lower credit rating implies that baht assets carry more risk.

The downgrade came amid growing anxiety in Thailand over the slowdown in its export-led economy, its rising account deficit, plummeting property prices and an embarrassing cash shortage at its financial institutions.

For years, the money had just poured in. Until 1995 Thailand had one of the world's fastest-growing economies, at more than 8 percent a year. Bangkok's skyline has been transformed by a chaotic jumble of tall buildings, and around 20,000 new cars enter its clogged its streets every year.

But many of those new buildings now stand empty or only partly occupied, and banks have makeshift parking lots to hold fleets of expensive cars that have been repossessed. Annual growth is projected to fall to as low as 5 percent in the coming years.

The country's newly rich entrepreneurs, its rapidly expanding middle class, its banks and its property developers are having to take a closer look at their budgets and lower their expectations.

Economic problems were at the heart of opposition that caused the collapse last year of a coalition government led by Prime Minister Banharn Silpa-archa.

But the problems have only intensified under his successor, Chaovalit Yongchaiyut.

One month ago, the country's largest financial institution, Finance One PLC, was swallowed by its 12th-largest bank, Thai Danu Bank PLC, to preserve the finance institution's liquidity. The government also ordered 10 other finance companies to take urgent steps to raise their own capital levels. All had seriously overextended themselves on loans to the flagging real-estate sector.

Standard & Poor's Corp., another American credit-rating concern, left unchanged its rating for the country last month, saying Thailand could maintain its economic stability despite its current problems. But it warned of heightened risk in the banking sector.

"It's clear that each agency has a different point of view of our economy," Chaiyawat Wbulswasdi, a deputy governor of the central bank, said. "Now it's up to investors to decide whom to listen to."

The Moody's downgrade, from its top rating of Aaa to Aa, was based on what the agency called an "incremental deterioration" in the economy, including declining competitiveness in export industries and the crisis among financial institutions.

But Moody's said that the still-strong rating reflected the continuing soundness of Thailand's liberal trade and investment policies and its favorable geographic location.

Continuing investment should lead to further technology transfers that will help the country move into more sophisticated value-added industries, it said.

Moody's said Thailand's biggest challenge was to bring under control its current-account deficit — the balance of payments for imports and exports of goods and services — which has swelled to 8 percent of gross domestic product.

Moody's cut Thailand's short-term sovereign debt rating in September. After it announced in February that it was reviewing the long-term debt rating, foreign economists said, several government officials pleaded privately for a reprieve, fearing harm to the nation's image with investors.

Analysts said the downgrade could stall a planned interest-rate cut, making an economic recovery more difficult. But they said that although the rating cut would raise the cost of borrowing abroad, the move had been anticipated and thus already factored in by the market.

Thailand's economic downturn was not unexpected after a decade of rapid growth, they added, and could lead to sounder management of the economy.

German Banks: Set for Mergers?

By John Schmid
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — German banks, which caused outrage in some quarters last month over their role in the failed hostile bid for Thyssen AG, may soon find themselves on the receiving end of takeover attempts as a wave of consolidation hits the banking industry.

"One year ago, my private opinion was that nothing will happen before the turn of the century," an executive at one of Munich's two biggest banks said. "But now, it is like the domino effect: When things start happening, it will go quickly. You saw how quickly things happened with Thyssen-Krupp."

In the wake of the failed takeover of Thyssen by Krupp Hoesch AG, which ended in a friendly merger after Thyssen deflected the unsolicited bid, industry sources and analysts said the climate had changed in favor of mergers and acquisitions, even unpopular ones.

"In the context of the fragmented markets in Germany, Germans think they need to be the largest to compete in the changed landscape," Matthew Czepliewicz of Salomon Brothers, said.

The latest bout of takeover speculation was sparked last month, when the chairmen of Bayerische Vereinsbank AG, Germany's fourth-largest bank in terms of assets, and No. 5 Bayerische Hypotheken- & Wechsel-Bank AG, known as Hypo-Bank, openly discussed the possibility of mergers, although in abstract terms. Shares of both Munich-based banks rallied to record highs on the talk. On Wednesday, Hypo-Bank said its net profit rose to 714.9 million Deutsche marks ($417.1 million) last year from 676.2 million DM in 1995, lifted by a 44 percent rise in commission income.

Germany has become a prime candidate for consolidation in the banking industry; the country has one bank branch for every 1,500 inhabitants — nearly twice the concentration of the United States, Britain or Japan.

That fact alone makes a shakeout all but inevitable to many bankers. With the proposed launch of a single European currency in 1999, analysts say German banks need to grow to compete in an enlarged market. The consolidation wave, when it comes, will probably hit Germany relatively late, after first rolling through the Netherlands, Britain, Switzerland, Sweden and Norway.

But the odds are increasing that a consolidation could begin as soon as this year, analysts and bank executives said. The first step might take the form of equity swaps or merger of data-processing and information technology operations, a Frankfurt banker said.

In trying to weigh the likelihood of mergers, bankers in Frankfurt say that the two Munich banks have an ulterior reason for seeding merger speculation: It drives up their stock price, creating a deterrent against possible hostile takeovers. Dresdner Bank AG, meanwhile, is viewed as the most likely suitor for Hypo-Bank. The German insurance giant Allianz AG holds a 23 percent stake in both and could arrange a deal. Allianz declined to comment.

A combination of Dresdner and Hypo-Bank "has industrial logic," Mr. Czepliewicz at Salomon said. "It gives Dresdner strength where it could use it, namely in mortgages, and it would be easier because of the Allianz stakes."

The banks involved declined to comment.

Signaling that it would not be shy about any coming mergers, Deutsche Bank AG unleashed takeover speculation in July when it said it had acquired a 5.2 percent stake in Vereinsbank.

As banks merge and branches close, and with more banking being done on line and by cash machine, the DAG service-sector union has estimated that one in four banking jobs could be lost by the turn of the century. Although the DAG's estimate is the most extreme, few dispute that jobs are at stake.

By the cautious standards of German bankers, recent statements have been blunt. "With the bosses of the big banks talking in public, you cannot rule out anything," an executive at one of the big banks in Frankfurt said.

Effort to End Sweatshops Yields a Pact

By Steven Greenhouse
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — A presidential task force that includes human-rights groups, labor unions and apparel-industry giants such as Nike Inc., Reebok International Ltd. and L.L. Bean has reached a groundbreaking agreement that seeks to end sweatshops by creating a code of conduct on wages and working conditions, including a maximum 60-hour workweek, for apparel factories that American companies use around the world.

The task force has also agreed to set up an association to oversee monitors who would inspect apparel factories worldwide and give a seal of approval to companies that comply with the code of conduct.

Task-force members vowed to follow the code in the factories they used in the United States and abroad. Participants said they hoped dozens of other American companies would commit themselves to meeting the standards and that the effort would eventually lead to work standards for the clothing industry worldwide.

The members reached an agreement at a seven-hour meeting Monday attended by Gene Sperling, chairman of the president's National Economic Council. Task-force participants said President Bill Clinton hoped to announce the agreement next Monday at a White House ceremony where he will be flanked by industry, labor and human-rights officials.

Mr. Sperling, who refused to confirm details of the agreement, said, "The progress that's been made represents a unique and historic step to eradicate sweatshops here and around the world."

Companies that comply with the code will be able to put a label or tag on their clothing assuring consumers that it was not made under sweatshop conditions.

Linda Golodner, co-chairman of the task force and president of the National Consumers Federation, said: "The benefit for everyone is what the whole task force was about: That's to make sure consumers can purchase goods that have not been made in a sweatshop and make sure that there's a process in place to check that factories are not sweatshops."

The agreement came after weeks of meetings in which the apparel companies clashed with labor and human-rights representatives about minimum wages and maximum hours in factories and who should monitor the factories.

Task-force members said they were still debating some wording in the proposed guidelines.

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates

April 9

	$	£	D.M.	F.F.	Lira	D.Fl.	B.F.	S.F.	Yen	C$	Peseta
Amsterdam	1.9324	3.1365	1.1247	0.3340	0.1141*	—	5.4515*	1.3765	1.5188*	1.3955	1.332*
Brussels	35.48	57.6175	20.6325	6.1185	2.0725*	18.348	—	24.835	28.72	25.60	24.357*
Frankfurt	1.7192	2.7869	—	0.2972	0.1003*	0.8892	4.8474*	1.1659	1.3575*	1.2375	1.1842*
London (a)	1.6233	—	2.7915	9.3802	2,755.55	3.1385	57.5866	2.3924	205.3799	2.2527	235.6302
Madrid	145.081	235.495	84.438	25.085	8.562*	75.098	4.0928	98.387	114.685*	104.717	—
Milan	1,693.50	2,751.55	987.46	293.49	—	871.38	47.351	1,149.25	13.398	1,221.38	11.697
New York (b)	—	1.6230	1.7255	5.8046	1,703.09	1.9391	35.49	1.479	126.805	1.3884	145.81
Paris	5.7812	9.384	3.3647	—	0.3402*	2.9917	0.1631	3.9285	4.5696*	4.1748	3.9865*
Tokyo	126.45	205.43	73.32	21.94	0.749	65.65	3.5361	85.17	—	91.06	0.8742
Toronto	1.3881	2.2585	0.8057	0.2386	0.0807*	0.7166	0.3904*	0.9385	1.0959*	—	0.954*
Zurich	1.4735	2.3918	0.8571	0.2548	0.0869*	0.7621	4.157*	—	1.165*	1.0601	1.0256*
1 ECU	1.1487	0.7027	1.9599	6.5946	1,932.81	2.2040	40.4347	1.6821	144.377	1.5796	165.449
1 SDR	1.3685	0.8430	2.3473	7.9118	2,318.86	2.6446	48.4582	N.Q.	172.982	2.3462	198.579

Closings in Amsterdam, London, Milan, Paris and Zurich, fixings in other centers; New York at 4 P.M. and Toronto rates at 3 P.M.
*a: To buy one pound; b: To buy one dollar; *Units of 100; N.Q.: not quoted; N.A.: not available.*

Other Dollar Values

Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $
Argent. peso	0.9998	Greek drac.	270.32	Mex. peso	7.8930	S. Afr. rand	4.433
Australian $	1.2796	Hong Kong $	7.7479	N. Zealand $	1.4443	S. Kor. won	894.00
Austrian sch.	12.089	Hung. forint	179.53	Norw. krone	6.9577	Swed. krona	7.6685
Brazil real	1.063	Indian rupee	35.845	Phil. peso	26.35	Taiwan $	27.59
Chinese yuan	8.3266	Indo. rupiah	2406.00	Polish zloty	3.11	Thai baht	26.09
Czech koruna	29.43	Irish £	0.6468	Port. escudo	172.31	Turkish lira	130135.
Danish krone	6.5395	Israeli shek.	3.386	Russ ruble	5731.50	UAE dirham	3.6705
Egypt. pound	3.3962	Kuwaiti dinar	0.3038	Saudi riyal	3.75	Venez. boliv.	477.00
Fin. markka	5.1265	Malay. ring.	2.504	Sing. $	1.4405		

Forward Rates

Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day	Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day
Pound Sterling	1.6222	1.6214	1.6206	Japanese yen	126.11	125.40	125.03
Canadian dollar	1.3810	1.3784	1.3760	Swiss franc	1.4688	1.4645	1.4599
Deutsche mark	1.7146	1.7115	1.7079				

Sources: ING Bank (Amsterdam); Indosuez Bank (Brussels); Banca Commerciale Italiana (Milan); Banque de France (Paris); Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (Tokyo)

Libid-Libor Rates

April 9

	Dollar	D-Mark	Swiss Franc	Sterling	French Franc	Yen	ECU
1-month	5 7/16 - 5 9/16	3 3/16 - 3 1/4	1 11/16 - 1 13/16	6 1/16 - 6 3/16	3 5/16 - 3 7/16	3/8 - 1/2	5 1/16 - 5 3/16
3-month	5 11/16 - 5 3/4	3 3/16 - 3 5/16	1 11/16 - 1 13/16	6 5/16 - 6 7/16	3 3/8 - 3 1/2	3/8 - 1/2	5 1/16 - 5 3/16
6-month	5 7/8 - 6	3 5/16 - 3 7/16	1 11/16 - 1 13/16	6 1/2 - 6 5/8	3 3/8 - 3 1/2	1/2 - 5/8	5 1/8 - 5 1/4
1-year	6 1/4 - 6 3/8	3 1/2 - 3 5/8	1 15/16 - 2 1/16	6 15/16 - 7	3 3/8 - 3 1/2	1/2 - 5/8	4 15/16 - 4 15/16

Sources: Reuters, Lloyds Bank.
Rates applicable to interbank deposits of $1 million minimum (or equivalent).

Key Money Rates

United States	Close	Prev
Discount rate	5.00	5.00
Prime rate	8 1/2	8 1/2
Federal funds	5 5/8	5 9/16
90-day CDs dealers	5.71	5.71
180-day CP dealers	5.66	5.63
3 month Treasury bill	5.10	5.11
1-year Treasury bill	5.63	5.64
2-year Treasury bill	6.41	6.41
5-year Treasury note	6.75	6.75
7-year Treasury note	6.81	6.81
10-year Treasury note	6.89	6.89
30-year Treasury bond	7.10	7.10
Merrill Lynch 30-day RA	4.90	4.90
Japan		
Discount rate	0.50	0.50
Call money	0.38	0.44
1-month interbank	0.56	0.59
3-month interbank	0.57	0.59
6-month interbank	0.66	0.66
10-year Govt bond	2.19	N.A.
Germany		
Lombard rate	4.50	4.50
Call money	3.15	3.15
1-month interbank	3.25	3.25
3-month interbank	3.27	3.27
6-month interbank	3.28	3.28
10-year Bond	5.78	5.90

Britain		
Bank base rate	6.00	6.00
Call money	6 1/16	6 1/16
1-month interbank	6 1/8	6 1/8
3-month interbank	6 1/4	6 1/4
6-month interbank	6 3/8	6 3/8
10-year Gilt	7.58	7.61
France		
Intervention rate	3.10	3.10
Call money	3 3/16	3 3/16
1-month interbank	3 3/16	3 1/4
3-month interbank	3 1/4	3 1/4
6-month interbank	3 3/8	3 1/4
10-year OAT	5.77	5.82

Sources: Reuters, Bloomberg, Merrill Lynch, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Commerzbank, Credit Lyonnais.

Gold

	A.M.	P.M.	Ch'ge
Zurich	348.00	347.50	—1.00
London	348.00	347.80	+1.20
New York	351.00	350.40	—0.80

U.S. dollars per ounce. London official fixings; Zurich and New York opening and closing prices; New York Comex (June.)
Source: Reuters.

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Shareholders are invited to attend the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

which will be held at 26, route d'Arlon, Luxembourg on April 18, 1997 at 10.00 a.m. with the following agenda:

AGENDA:

1. Reports of the Board of Directors and Auditors.
2. Approval of the financial statements as of December 31, 1996.
3. Decision on allocation of net profits.
4. Discharge of the Directors and of the Auditors in respect of the carrying out of their duties during the fiscal year ended December 31, 1996.
5. Reelection of the Board Members.
6. Election of a new Auditor.
7. Miscellaneous business.

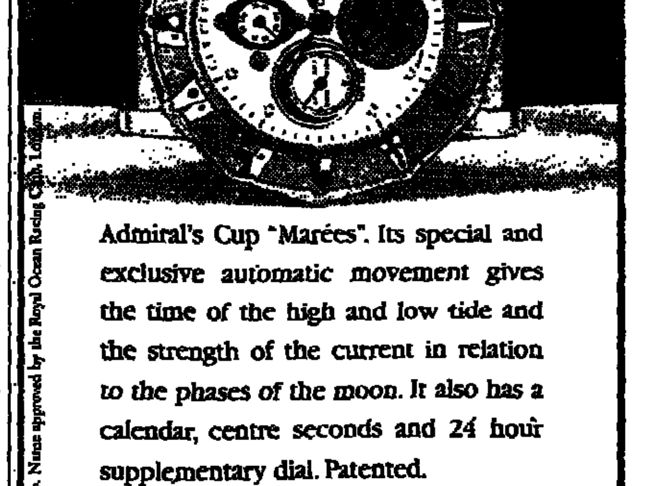
NOTES:

Holders of bearer shares may vote at the Meeting:
- in person by producing at the Meeting either share certificates or a certificate of deposit issued by their bank which will be issued to them against deposit of their share certificates,
- by proxy by completing the form of proxy which will be made available to them against deposit of share certificates aforesaid.

Share certificates so deposited will be retained until the Meeting or any adjournment thereof has been concluded.

The Board of Directors

SPIRIT OF THE SEA



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THE AMERICAS

Investor's America

Exchange	Index	Wednesday @4PM	Prev. Close	% Change
NYSE	The Dow	6563.84	6609.16	-0.69
NYSE	S&P 500	760.57	766.12	-0.72
NYSE	S&P 100	739.80	746.07	-0.84
NYSE	Composite	400.29	402.29	-0.50
U.S.	Nasdaq Composite	1249.52	1257.41	-0.63
AMEX	Market Value	562.98	561.42	+0.28
Toronto	TSE Index	[illegible]	5814.40	-0.06
São Paulo	Bovespa	9819.12	9762.21	+0.58
Mexico City	Bolsa	3794.56	3772.28	+0.59
Buenos Aires	Merval	714.01	714.92	-0.13
Santiago	IPSA General	5362.20	5354.66	+0.21
Caracas	Capital General	8244.56	8292.30	-0.58

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters — International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

CSX and Norfolk Reach Rail Deal

NEW YORK (NYT) — CSX Corp. and Norfolk Southern Corp. have agreed on how the two companies would split the assets of Conrail Inc. The deal, which has been expected since Conrail abandoned its merger with CSX a month ago, will bring competition in freight rail service to New York for the first time in 29 years.

Under the terms of the agreement, announced Tuesday, CSX and Norfolk Southern will jointly pay $115 cash a share, or $10.2 billion, for Conrail, the line that has had a virtual monopoly on freight traffic from Washington to Boston and west to Chicago. The two rival railroad companies will then divide Conrail, with CSX paying $4.3 billion for 42 percent of the assets and Norfolk Southern paying $5.9 billion for the remaining 58 percent.

The deal formally brings to an end a bidding war for Conrail, which began in October with the announcement of an $8.4 billion merger between Conrail and CSX.

• **Chrysler Corp.** plans to invest $1.31 billion in six Detroit plants in the next five years, adding "hundreds" of jobs, largely to increase production of its Jeep Grand Cherokee and light-truck engines.

• **Dow Chemical Co.** said it had resolved a dispute with General Electric Co., which it accused of raiding personnel and trade secrets. Terms of the settlement are confidential.

• **Phillips Petroleum Co.** has joined a group that will build a $1 billion facility in western Canada to process liquefied natural gas for shipment to South Korea. Other participants are **Daewoo Corp.** of South Korea **PAC-RIM LNG Inc., Bechtel Enterprises Inc.** and **Korea Gas Corp.**

• **Brazil** will temporarily drop import tariffs, averaging 20 percent, on some telecommunications equipment to spur industry competition before a massive expansion of mobile telephone systems. *Bloomberg*

Telerate Cuts Dow Jones's Net

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Dow Jones & Co. said Wednesday that its first-quarter profit fell 33 percent, largely because of difficulties at its Telerate financial-information business.

Telerate, recently renamed Dow Jones Markets, is the focus of a $650 million overhaul that has prompted two members of the family that controls Dow Jones, as well as some Wall Street analysts and others, to question whether it was too costly.

Dow Jones said its net income fell to $25.4 million from $37.6 million a year earlier despite a rise in revenue to $606 million from $584.8 million.

The first-quarter earnings included a one-time gain of $3.5 million from the sale of American Demographics magazine and related businesses.

Dow Jones shares were down 62.5 cents at $40.125 in late New York Stock Exchange trading.

The company's business-publishing unit, which includes The Wall Street Journal and its television operations, reported a gain of 107 percent in operating income in the quarter. Ottaway Newspapers, Dow Jones's community-newspaper unit, posted a 121 percent improvement.

But the company's financial-information services unit, which includes Dow Jones Markets as well as the company's newswires, saw operating profit fall 84 percent in the quarter, to $7.5 million. It was the only unit to post a decline.

On Tuesday, the company announced that it had formed an alliance with Microsoft Corp. to help with the overhaul of Dow Jones Markets. The unit has suffered from competition with Bloomberg LP and Reuters Holdings PLC.

Under the agreement, Dow Jones will use Microsoft's operating systems, database programs and other software to create a system that will allow its customers to trade, exchange messages and view historical and up-to-the-minute financial information on personal computers.

In addition to its technology, Microsoft will provide consulting services to Dow Jones and will help sell some Dow Jones services to Microsoft customers in the financial-services industry. *(NYT, AP, Bloomberg)*

Interest-Rate Gloom Settles on Wall Street

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Stocks fell Wednesday amid concern that rising interest rates will undermine corporate profits.

"Earnings may be good this year, and rising earnings drive a rising stock market," Robert Bissell, an investment manager at Wells Capital Management, said. "But if the Federal Reserve becomes too aggressive and continues raising rates, that derails all that."

The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 45.32 points at 6,563.84, while the broader Standard & Poor's 500-share index fell 5.55, to 760.57. Advancing and declining issues were nearly even on the New York Stock Exchange.

The price of the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond fell 1/32 to 94 4/32, leaving the yield steady at 7.10 percent. Bond yields have held above 7 percent since the Federal Reserve Board raised its target on the federal funds rate, the rate banks charge each other for overnight loans, on March 25 — its first rate increase in two years. Analysts have often said that a yield above 7 percent is a threat to the stock market, because it draws investors away from equities and raises the cost of corporate borrowing.

"Everybody's pretty much looking for a lead on where the bonds want to go and where the Fed is looking to go at the next meeting," Keith Janacek, vice president of institutional sales and trading at Legg Mason Wood Walker, said.

Technology stocks were weak, despite recent strong earnings reports. Investors are beginning to think the issues are overpriced relative to their earnings potential, analysts said.

Cisco Systems was the most actively traded U.S. stock, falling 1¼ to 54⅛, while Intel lost 4 7/64 to 142½.

Seagate Technology fell 2¾ to 49¼ as investors took profits after

U.S. STOCKS

the company reported a jump in third-quarter earnings and predicted strong demand for its products.

Drug stocks fell, led by Merck. It closed down 3⅞ at 81⅜ on concern that the company's top-selling drugs to treat high cholesterol levels are being threatened by a new treatment from Warner-Lambert. Since its introduction in February, Warner-Lambert's Lipitor has been stealing market share from Merck's Mevacor and Zocor. Warner-Lambert closed up ¼ at 93¾.

Biogen closed down 1⅜ at 37⅞ after it said European officials had revoked a patent on its multiple-sclerosis drug, clearing the way for competing drugs to be sold royalty-free.

McDonald's fell ¼ to 49⅝ after the world's largest fast-food chain said sales at U.S. restaurants that had been open at least a year fell 6.4 percent in 1996, to an average of $1.43 million. It said average sales would "continue to be affected by expansion into smaller, lower-cost sites."

General Electric rose ¾ to 102 after Dow Chemical said it had resolved a dispute related to accusations that GE had raided Dow's automotive-plastics division for personnel and used trade secrets. *(Bloomberg, Bridge News, AP)*

DOLLAR: *Currency Gains Further Against Yen and Mark*

Continued from Page 1

Japanese manufacturers, especially automakers, are benefiting from a major boom in exports, thanks in part to the recent developments in currency markets. U.S. officials fear that Tokyo is once again trying to lift itself out of recession through exports rather than by stimulating its own economy.

Accordingly, analysts are starting to ask whether the authorities will take action to stem the dollar's rise or whether the G-7 may find itself helpless to resist the market-driven forces behind the dollar's strength.

"It's a classic case," said William Dudley, an economist at Goldman Sachs, in which Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin "has said he doesn't want to see the dollar firmer, and now the markets are saying, 'So what are you prepared to do about it?'"

C. Fred Bergsten, director of the Institute for International Economics, said Mr. Rubin and his G-7 colleagues could lose credibility in currency markets if the trends persisted. "If the dollar gets to, say, 130 against the yen," Mr. Bergsten said, "then I think one could legitimately say that these guys were just talking and weren't ready to put their money where their mouth is."

Neither Mr. Rubin nor the G-7 statement in Berlin specifically called for the dollar to stop rising. The Treasury chief has repeatedly said simply that "a strong dollar is in the U.S. interest, and we've had a strong dollar for some time now." The G-7 statement said the dollar's former weakness had been "corrected."

But several G-7 members were much more blunt after the Berlin meeting. Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, told reporters the dollar's rise "ought to end about now."

Against other currencies Wednesday, the dollar rose to 5.8045 French francs from 5.7725 francs and to 1.4790 Swiss francs from 1.4743 francs. The pound fell to $1.6200 from $1.6260.

P&G Buys Tambrands

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

CINCINNATI — Procter & Gamble Co. said Wednesday it had agreed to buy the maker of Tampax brand tampons for nearly $2 billion.

The purchase of Tambrands Inc. marks the biggest acquisition ever for the consumer-products giant. Procter & Gamble will pay $50 a share for Tambrands, which will no longer exist as an independent company.

The tampons, Tambrands' only product, lead the global $8 billion sanitary-products market. Tampax holds 50 percent of the American market, valued at $800 million wholesale, and has a strong presence in Europe. Procter & Gamble makes Always feminine products and Pampers disposable diapers, among other consumer products.

Rumors of the buyout had sent Tambrands' shares and options jumping the past few trading days. In late trading Wednesday, Tambrands shares were up $2.125, at $48.25, while P&G rose $3.25, to $119. *(AP, Bloomberg)*

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

April 9, 1997

	High	Low	Close	Chge	Opint
Grains					
CORN (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel					
May 97	301	295¼	299	-½	119,351
Jul 97	302½	297¼	300¼	-2¼	118,475
Sep 97	292	286½	287½	-1¾	19,908
Dec 97	291	285½	289	-¾	95,080
Mar 98	293½	290	293	-½	9,133
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 54,171					
Tue's open int 367,837 off 1867					
SOYBEAN MEAL (CBOT) 100 tons- dollars per ton					
May 97	282.00	275.20	279.60	-3.20	41,422
Jul 97	279.50	273.00	277.80	-2.20	31,934
Aug 97	271.30	265.50	268.20	-2.30	9,561
Sep 97	254.00	250.80	252.30	-0.50	6,574
Oct 97	229.50	227.00	228.20		6,204
Dec 97	223.00	220.00	220.90	+0.20	12,310
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 22,902					
Tue's open int 109,754 off 968					
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT) 60,000 lbs- cents per lb					
May 97	24.20	23.56	24.17	+0.17	34,497
Jul 97	24.60	23.95	24.58	+0.23	34,335
Aug 97	24.76	24.18	24.76	+0.21	7,935
Sep 97	24.87	24.32	24.87	+0.20	5,238
Oct 97	25.00	24.50	24.99	+0.24	5,298
Dec 97	25.25	24.65	25.25	+0.27	14,303
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 11,895					
Tue's open int 102,459 up 236					
SOYBEANS (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel					
May 97	853	829½	847½	-1⅛	63,735
Jul 97	859	833	852	-1½	69,934
Aug 97	843	822	839½	+1¼	18,948
Sep 97	755	742½	752½	+1½	6,548
Nov 97	704½	695	701½	+3¼	38,177
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 59,579					
Tue's open int 192,823 off 2621					
WHEAT (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel					
May 97	388	381	385½	+3½	18,050
Jul 97	390¾	383½	389¼	+3¼	47,552
Sep 97	393½	385	393	+3¼	8,336
Dec 97	402	396	401½	+3	6,869
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 27,817					
Tue's open int 21,311 off 60845					
Livestock					
CATTLE (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Apr 97	68.62	67.60	68.52	+1.35	14,406
Jun 97	64.40	63.55	64.20	+0.87	36,288
Aug 97	64.35	63.75	64.20	+0.57	21,787
Oct 97	68.25	67.80	68.10	+0.40	15,470
Dec 97	70.15	69.82	70.07	+0.37	7,759
Feb 98	70.97	70.70	70.95	+0.35	4,478
Est. sales 21,405 Tue's. sales 17,198					
Tue's open int 102,833 off 755					
FEEDER CATTLE (CMER) 50,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Apr 97	71.70	70.80	71.22	+0.45	2,486
May 97	71.37	70.25	71.15	+1.27	6,425
Aug 97	74.50	73.32	73.97	+0.87	6,057
Sep 97	74.50	73.50	74.05	+0.72	1,653
Oct 97	74.90	74.20	74.60	+0.67	2,303
Nov 97	76.50	75.90	76.10	+0.55	1,043
Est. sales 4,474 Tue's. sales 2,035					
Tue's open int 20,191 off 98					
HOGS-Lean (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Apr 97	73.32	72.40	72.95	+0.52	3,751
Jun 97	82.25	81.00	81.62	+0.65	15,156
Jul 97	81.87	80.60	81.22	+0.87	4,214
Aug 97	79.25	78.45	78.77	+0.42	3,625
Oct 97	73.37	72.75	72.90	+0.02	2,840
Dec 97	71.07	70.62	70.82		1,873
Est. sales 9,866 Tue's. sales 8,269					
Tue's open int 32,432 up 288					
PORK BELLIES (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 97	81.80	79.85	81.27	+1.47	3,513
Jul 97	80.75	78.70	80.12	+1.47	2,257
Aug 97	78.00	76.80	77.12	+1.22	568
Feb 98	72.70	71.55	71.55	+0.12	105
Mar 98			71.40		8
May 98			71.00	-3.00	2
Est. sales 3,095 Tue's. sales 1,901					
Tue's open int 6,456 off 167					
Food					
COCOA (NCSE) 10 metric tons- $ per ton					
May 97	1408	1370	1380	-20	17,175
Jul 97	1459	1410	1420	-20	27,508
Sep 97	1460	1436	1445	-19	12,178
Dec 97	1487	1454	1468	-17	12,476
Mar 98	1508	1481	1491	-14	19,113
Est. sales 12,394 Tue's. sales 16,066					
Tue's open int 97,617 off 1006					
COFFEE C (NCSE) 37,500 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 97	190.00	177.10	189.70	+10.95	11,201
Jul 97	174.00	162.75	173.15	+8.65	10,116
Sep 97	158.75	151.75	158.75	+6.00	6,595
Dec 97	146.50	140.00	146.15	+5.65	3,717
Est. sales 10,430 Tue's. sales 5,499					
Tue's open int 33,038 off 590					
SUGAR-WORLD 11 (NCSE) 112,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 97	11.36	11.06	11.31	+0.27	61,061
Jul 97	11.09	10.83	11.06	+0.26	42,081
Oct 97	10.81	10.62	10.81	+0.19	31,171
Mar 98	10.74	10.62	10.73	+0.12	14,969
Est. sales 55,573 Tue's. sales 21,831					
Tue's open int 156,798 up 5574					

	High	Low	Close	Chge	Opint
ORANGE JUICE (NCTN) 15,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 97	73.90	72.10	73.40	+0.80	12,139
Jul 97	77.00	75.30	76.65	+0.80	8,613
Sep 97	79.40	78.60	79.05	+0.05	4,683
Nov 97	82.00	81.50	81.75	-0.05	1,997
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 3,253					
Tue's open int 28,822 up 377					
Metals					
GOLD (NCMX) 100 troy oz.- dollars per troy oz.					
Apr 97	348.70	347.20	348.00	-0.60	554
May 97			348.80	-0.80	2
Jun 97	351.50	349.90	350.40	-0.80	64,026
Aug 97	353.80	352.70	353.10	-0.80	13,354
Oct 97	357.00	355.40	355.80	-0.80	5,629
Dec 97	359.50	358.30	358.60	-0.80	21,774
Feb 98			361.40	-0.80	5,143
Apr 98			364.10	-0.80	3,147
Est. sales 14,000 Tue's. sales 16,207					
Tue's open int 148,359 up 865					
HI GRADE COPPER (NCMX) 25,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Apr 97	109.60	108.30	109.00	+0.55	3,093
May 97	108.20	106.80	107.65	+0.75	20,817
Jun 97	107.00	106.70	106.70	+0.75	1,568
Jul 97	106.20	105.60	105.65	+0.70	8,838
Aug 97	104.70	104.65	104.65	+0.45	759
Sep 97	104.00	102.90	103.55	+0.50	4,219
Oct 97	103.10	103.10	103.10	+0.40	657
Nov 97			102.05	+0.30	773
Dec 97	101.70	100.90	101.25		5,949
Est. sales 8,000 Tue's. sales 5,756					
Tue's open int 50,335 off 439					
SILVER (NCMX) 5,000 troy oz.- cents per troy oz.					
Apr 97			476.00	-0.40	2
May 97	480.50	476.00	477.50	-0.50	54,884
Jun 97			480.00	-0.50	2
Jul 97	485.50	481.80	482.40	-0.50	25,152
Sep 97	490.80	487.20	487.20	-0.50	3,891
Dec 97	496.00	494.00	494.60	-0.50	5,475
Jan 98			497.20	-0.50	17
Mar 98			502.40	-0.50	5,357
Est. sales 9,000 Tue's. sales 13,318					
Tue's open int 99,130 off 318					
PLATINUM (NMER) 50 troy oz.- dollars per troy oz.					
Apr 97			368.80	+3.50	65
May 97			388.50		
Jun 97			1487.50		
Jul 97	376.40	368.50	372.60	+3.30	13,015
Oct 97	378.60	372.50	374.80	+3.80	2,202
Jan 98			377.00	+3.00	1,151
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 849					
Tue's open int 16,933 up 885					

LONDON METALS (LME) Dollars per metric ton

	Close		Previous	
Aluminum (High Grade)				
Spot	1554½	1555½	1547½	1548½
Forward	1589.00	1590.00	1582.00	1583.00
Copper Cathodes (High Grade)				
Spot	2357.00	2359.00	2336.00	2339.00
Forward	2308.00	2309.00	2293.00	2294.00
Lead				
Spot	647.00	649.00	648½	649½
Forward	650.00	651.00	650½	651½
Nickel				
Spot	7350.00	7360.00	7195.00	7205.00
Forward	7460.00	7470.00	7310.00	7315.00
Tin				
Spot	5740.00	5750.00	5710.00	5720.00
Forward	5770.00	5775.00	5745.00	5750.00
Zinc (Special High Grade)				
Spot	1239½	1240½	1232.00	1233.00
Forward	1264½	1265.00	1256½	1257½

	High	Low	Close	Chge	Opint
Financial					
US T. BILLS (CMER) $1 million- pts of 100 pct.					
Jun 97	94.61	94.60	94.60		6,896
Sep 97	94.31	94.30	94.30		3,419
Dec 97			94.48		847
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 74					
Tue's open int 10,315 up 26					
5 YR. TREASURY (CBOT) $100,000 prin- pts & 64ths of 100 pct					
Jun 97	104-32	104-22	104-22	-01	232,622
Sep 97			104-08	-01	926
Dec 97			103-57	-01	10
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 38,091					
Tue's open int 233,548 up 6917					
10 YR. TREASURY (CBOT) $100,000 prin- pts & 32nds of 100 pct					
Jun 97	105-30	105-20	105-22		324,760
Sep 97	105-10	105-06	105-07	+01	15,948
Dec 97	104-29	104-27	104-27	+01	50
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 60,632					
Tue's open int 340,798 up 3320					
US TREASURY BONDS (CBOT) (8 pct-$100,000-pts & 32nds of 100 pct)					
Jun 97	107-28	107-10	107-11	-02	420,989
Sep 97	107-13	106-27	106-28	-03	34,886
Dec 97			106-16	-02	5,809
Mar 98			106-06	-02	1,449
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 286,336					
Tue's open int 473,200 up 957					
LONG GILT (LIFFE) £50,000 - pts & 32nds of 100 pct					
Jun 97	109-18	108-31	109-04	+0-01	179,271
Sep 97	N.T.	N.T.	108-31	+0-01	181,993
Est. sales: 43,640. Prev. sales: 58,449					
Prev. open int.: 181,993 off 347					
GERMAN GOVERNMENT BUND (LIFFE) DM250,000 - pts of 100 pct					
Jun 97	100.66	100.16	100.27	+0.05	259,093
Sep 97	99.49	99.28	99.27	+0.04	5,517
Est. sales: 198,903. Prev. sales: 212,207					
Prev. open int.: 264,610 off 724					
10-YEAR FRENCH GOV. BONDS (MATIF) FF500,000 - pts of 100 pct					
Jun 97	128.80	128.28	128.60	+0.30	159,346
Sep 97	127.10	126.70	126.94	+0.28	4,695
Dec 97	96.34	96.34	96.60	+0.30	0
Est. volume: 141,127. Open int.: 164,041 off 1,531.					
ITALIAN GOVERNMENT BOND (LIFFE) ITL 200 million - pts of 100 pct					
Jun 97	128.00	126.56	127.75	+0.71	109,598
Sep 97	127.45	127.45	127.74	+0.70	3,194
Est. sales: 89,109. Prev. sales: 81,387					
Prev. open int.: 112,792 up 435					
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 277,784					
Tue's open int 2,444,433 up 5326					
EURODOLLARS (CMER) $1 million-pts of 100 pct.					
Apr 97	94.18	94.18	94.18		37,926
May 97	94.11	94.10	94.10		22,522
Jun 97	94.04	94.02	94.03		505,216
Sep 97	93.74	93.70	93.72		394,738
Dec 97	93.45	93.41	93.42		279,720
Mar 98	93.31	93.26	93.28	+0.01	287,914
Jun 98	93.20	93.16	93.17	+0.01	176,149
Sep 98	93.12	93.08	93.09		134,454
Dec 98	93.02	92.99	93.00	+0.01	116,347
Mar 99	93.02	92.98	92.99		88,539
Jun 99	92.98	92.95	92.95		77,473
Sep 99	92.96	92.92	92.92		61,388
Dec 99	92.89	92.86	92.86		54,327
BRITISH POUND (CMER) 62,500 pounds, $ per pound					
Jun 97	1.6258	1.6154	1.6174		35,487
Sep 97	1.6200	1.6144	1.6144		834
Dec 97			1.6114		101
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 5,928					
Tue's open int 36,422 off 621					
CANADIAN DOLLAR (CMER) 100,000 dollars, $ per Cdn. dlr					
Jun 97	.7262	.7221	.7224		74,539
Sep 97	.7298	.7258	.7259		4,788
Dec 97	.7325	.7290	.7288		1,153
Mar 98			.7316		772
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 3,990					
Tue's open int 81,284 up 106					
GERMAN MARK (CMER) 125,000 marks, $ per mark					
Jun 97	.5872	.5815	.5822		78,587
Sep 97	.5888	.5854	.5861		2,546
Dec 97			.5903		207
Mar 98			.5946		27
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 24,382					
Tue's open int 81,287 up 1887					
JAPANESE YEN (CMER) 12.5 million yen, $ per 100 yen					
Jun 97	.8012	.7951	.7961		77,936
Sep 97	.8100	.8061	.8070		1,200
Dec 97	.8200	.8180	.8185		554
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 20,224					
Tue's open int 79,690 up 2878					
SWISS FRANC (CMER) 125,000 francs, $ per franc					
Jun 97	.6853	.6792	.6806		43,890
Sep 97	.6903	.6863	.6873		2,076
Dec 97	.6980	.6945	.6946		376
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 18,410					
Tue's open int 46,392 up 2007					
3-MONTH STERLING (LIFFE) £500,000 - pts of 100 pct					
Jun 97	93.40	93.34	93.37	+0.04	122,227
Sep 97	93.13	93.03	93.08	+0.04	90,214
Dec 97	92.90	92.78	92.86	+0.06	75,221
Mar 98	92.75	92.63	92.70	+0.05	48,843
Jun 98	92.63	92.53	92.59	+0.05	40,418
Sep 98	92.55	92.45	92.50	+0.04	25,847
Dec 98	92.46	92.37	92.41	+0.03	20,469
Mar 99	92.40	92.33	92.35	+0.02	12,642
Jun 99	92.35	92.28	92.29	+0.01	9,284
Sep 99	92.23	92.22	92.22	+0.01	8,372
Dec 99	92.24	92.19	92.19	+0.01	6,027
Mar 00	92.20	92.14	92.14	+0.01	1,858
Est. sales: 91,560. Prev. sales: 86,367					
Prev. open int.: 462,022 off 280					
3-MONTH EUROMARK (LIFFE) DM1 million - pts of 100 pct					
Apr 97	96.76	96.75	96.76	Unch.	3,111
May 97	96.76	96.75	96.76	Unch.	3,111
Jun 97	96.75	96.73	96.73	-0.01	231,501
Sep 97	96.69	96.66	96.67	-0.01	188,527
Dec 97	96.54	96.49	96.52	Unch.	210,147
Mar 98	96.38	96.33	96.35	Unch.	157,886
Jun 98	96.19	96.13	96.16	Unch.	134,409
Sep 98	95.98	95.92	95.95	Unch.	106,160
Dec 98	95.73	95.67	95.69	Unch.	72,804
Mar 99	95.47	95.41	95.44	+0.01	61,401
Jun 99	95.19	95.14	95.17	+0.02	33,103
Sep 99	94.91	94.88	94.89	+0.02	26,477
Dec 99	94.65	94.61	94.62	+0.03	29,577
Mar 00	94.39	94.36	94.37	+0.02	8,790
Jun 00	94.18	94.16	94.16	+0.02	1,463
Sep 00	N.T.	N.T.	93.96	+0.02	2,716
Dec 00	N.T.	N.T.	93.78	+0.02	1,365
Mar 01	N.T.	N.T.	93.60	+0.02	307
Est. sales: 130,655. Prev. sales: 121,337					
Prev. open int.: 1,280,077 off 992					
3-MONTH PIBOR (MATIF) FF5 million - pts of 100 pct					
Jun 97	96.69	96.67	96.68	+0.00	60,760
Sep 97	96.60	96.58	96.59	-0.01	47,756
Dec 97	96.49	96.46	96.48	+0.00	31,728
Mar 98	96.35	96.32	96.35	+0.02	22,659
Jun 98	96.18	96.14	96.17	+0.02	18,416
Sep 98	95.99	95.95	95.98	+0.03	18,049
Dec 98	95.78	95.72	95.75	+0.03	12,636
Mar 99	95.51	95.46	95.50	+0.02	11,446
Jun 99	95.27	95.22	95.26	+0.04	6,572
Sep 99	94.98	94.98	94.99	+0.04	4,321
Dec 99	N.T.	N.T.	94.75	+0.04	5,834
Mar 00	94.52	94.49	94.52	+0.05	1,584
Est. volume: 37,066. Open int.: 242,761 up 626.					
3-MONTH EUROLIRA (LIFFE) ITL 1 million - pts of 100 pct					
Jun 97	93.12	92.92	93.07	+0.04	109,398
Sep 97	93.52	93.31	93.46	+0.07	67,404
Dec 97	93.64	93.42	93.58	+0.09	41,670
Mar 98	93.63	93.42	93.59	+0.10	25,789

	High	Low	Close	Chge	Opint
Jun 98	93.56	93.38	93.54	+0.10	16,233
Sep 98	93.52	93.31	93.48	+0.11	4,400
Dec 98	93.41	93.23	93.41	+0.11	476
Mar 99	93.15	93.15	93.32	+0.11	655
Est. sales: 79,559. Prev. sales: 64,495					
Prev. open int.: 266,025 up 586					
Industrials					
COTTON 2 (NCTN) 50,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 97	72.25	70.90	72.10	-0.15	30,801
Jul 97	73.89	72.77	73.90	-0.08	19,961
Oct 97	75.30	74.50	75.10	-0.15	1,871
Dec 97	76.15	75.30	76.00	-0.27	22,029
Mar 98	77.15	76.50	77.15	-0.20	2,337
May 98	77.80	77.00	77.80	-0.20	570
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 18,890					
Tue's open int 78,464 off 517					
HEATING OIL (NMER) 42,000 gal, cents per gal					
May 97	53.75	52.95	53.11	+0.22	36,090
Jun 97	53.30	52.50	52.73	-0.11	25,253
Jul 97	53.50	52.75	52.98	+0.06	18,644
Aug 97	54.15	53.50	53.58	+0.06	10,695
Sep 97	54.90	54.33	54.33	+0.06	7,043
Oct 97	55.50	55.08	55.08	+0.01	6,875
Nov 97	56.25	55.83	55.83	+0.01	6,526
Dec 97	57.00	56.48	56.48	+0.01	11,478
Jan 98	57.50	56.88	56.88	+0.01	6,284
Feb 98	57.30	56.73	56.73	+0.01	2,885
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 33,077					
Tue's open int 135,325 off 2206					
LIGHT SWEET CRUDE (NMER) 1,000 bbl.- dollars per bbl.					
May 97	19.77	19.12	19.25	-0.10	77,082
Jun 97	19.82	19.25	19.35	-0.10	69,191
Jul 97	19.80	19.35	19.40	-0.09	36,660
Aug 97	19.87	19.35	19.44	-0.09	24,774
Sep 97	19.85	19.40	19.60	+0.04	16,937
Oct 97	19.77	19.45	19.47	-0.10	15,651
Nov 97	19.68	19.50	19.50	-0.08	12,865
Dec 97	19.85	19.49	19.49	-0.10	30,018
Jan 98	19.70	19.48	19.48	-0.12	14,252
Feb 98	19.66	19.52	19.52	-0.09	7,722
Mar 98	19.77	19.55	19.55	-0.06	3,801
Apr 98	19.55	19.55	19.55	-0.06	3,725
May 98	19.72	19.50	19.50	-0.11	4,270
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 68,849					
Tue's open int 411,239 off 106					
NATURAL GAS (NMER) 10,000 mm btu's, $ per mm btu					
May 97	1.928	1.898	1.901		29,931
Jun 97	1.989	1.960	1.970		17,873
Jul 97	2.019	1.985	1.995		14,001
Aug 97	2.019	2.000	2.010		10,222
Sep 97	2.024	2.000	2.010		10,943
Oct 97	2.044	2.025	2.030		11,741
Nov 97	2.185	2.165	2.175		6,205
Dec 97	2.335	2.295	2.310		10,171
Jan 98	2.345	2.340	2.350		10,545
Feb 98	2.295	2.280	2.290		4,893
Mar 98	2.185	2.165	2.175		4,278
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 29,780					
Tue's open int 172,029 up 2270					
UNLEADED GASOLINE (NMER) 42,000 gal, cents per gal					
May 97	62.10	60.40	60.70	-0.47	39,799
Jun 97	61.50	59.90	60.31	-0.27	29,538
Jul 97	60.50	59.20	59.46	-0.32	11,202
Aug 97	59.40	58.30	58.50	-0.15	5,199
Sep 97	58.35	56.80	57.25	-0.10	2,747
Oct 97	56.05	55.65	55.65	-0.05	1,680
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 27,635					
Tue's open int 96,609 up 10					
GASOIL (IPE) U.S. dollars per metric ton - lots of 100 tons					
Apr 97	164.50	162.25	162.50	-0.25	13,572
May 97	166.00	163.75	164.25	+0.25	18,106
Jun 97	167.00	165.00	165.25	Unch.	9,266
Jul 97	168.00	166.75	167.00	Unch.	5,684
Aug 97	170.00	168.50	169.00	Unch.	4,000
Sep 97	171.75	171.00	171.00	+0.25	2,217
Oct 97	173.00	173.00	172.75	+0.25	2,356
Nov 97	174.25	174.00	173.75	Unch.	971
Dec 97	175.25	174.25	174.25	+0.25	7,225
Jan 98	N.T.	N.T.	175.50	+0.50	1,204
Est. sales: 22,477. Open int.: 66,036 up 341					
BRENT OIL (IPE) U.S. dollars per barrel - lots of 1,000 barrels					
May 97	18.34	17.72	17.75	-0.18	42,454
June 97	18.49	17.98	18.00	-0.10	58,800
July 97	18.50	18.12	18.12	-0.12	21,819
Aug 97	18.52	18.22	18.21	-0.14	10,533
Sep 97	18.52	18.28	18.25	-0.12	7,432
Oct 97	18.53	18.32	18.28	-0.11	6,522
Nov 97	18.55	18.43	18.31	-0.09	5,111
Dec 97	18.52	18.45	18.30	-0.09	8,222
Jan 98	18.46	18.46	18.28	-0.09	6,957
Est. sales: 66,758. Open int.: 172,084 up 1,788					
Stock Indexes					
S&P COMP. INDEX (CMER) 500 x index					
Jun 97	774.60	763.60	764.00	-8.05	178,618
Sep 97	782.35	772.00	772.00	-7.95	4,724
Dec 97	790.00	786.10	786.10	-2.30	3,226
Mar 98			797.55		130
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 70,752					
Tue's open int 186,698 up 423					
FTSE 100 (LIFFE) £25 per index point					
Jun 97	4321.0	4295.0	4303.0	+21.0	68,951
Sep 97	N.T.	N.T.	4328.0	+21.0	2,695
Est. sales: 13,358. Prev. sales: 9,049					
Prev. open int.: 63,646 up 713					
CAC 40 (MATIF) FF200 per index point					
Apr 97	2630.5	2611.0	2620.0	+38.00	24,105
May 97	2615.0	2599.0	2605.5	+38.00	3,845
Jun 97	2590.0	2575.0	2581.5	+38.50	19,203
Sep 97	2605.0	2602.0	2595.5	+38.00	8,701
Est. volume: 16,710. Open int.: 64,701 up 30.					

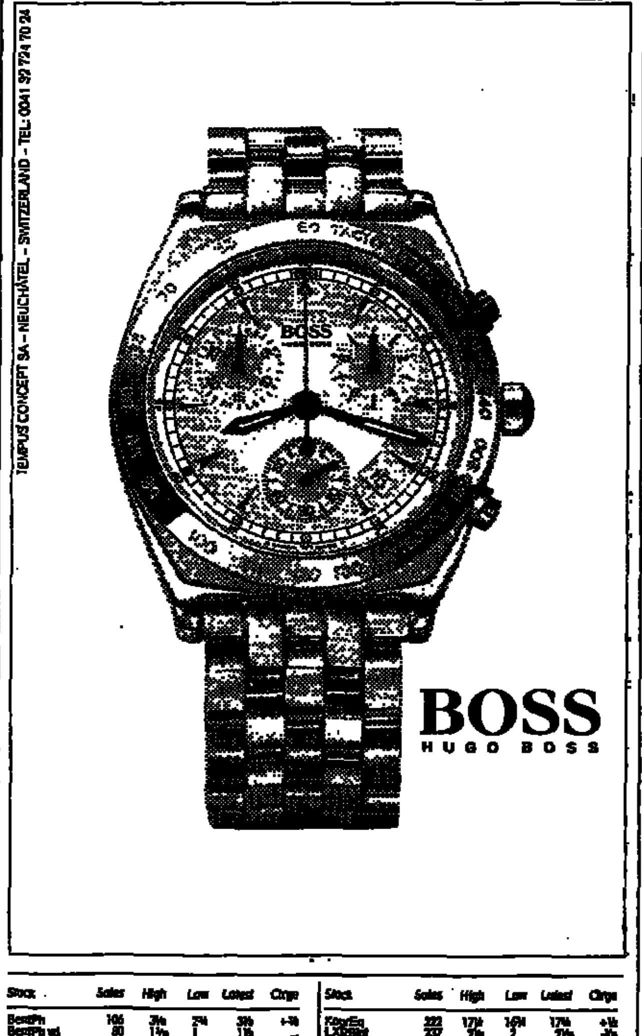
AMEX

Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close

The top 300 most active shares, up to the closing on Wall Street.

The Associated Press.

Stock	Sales	High	Low	Latest	Chge
[illegible]					



U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Indexes

Dow Jones

	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Indus	6604.91	6639.08	6546.09	6563.84	-45.32
Trans	2433.83	2441.84	2425.83	2432.29	+6.47
Util	214.29	214.99	213.53	214.08	-0.14
Comp	2083.29	2087.09	2065.39	2070.50	-7.38

Standard & Poors

	Previous High	Low	Close	Today 4 PM
Industrials	897.82	889.85	897.53	890.65
Transp.	554.12	548.64	552.12	554.95
Utilities	186.24	185.08	185.48	185.33
Finance	87.81	86.07	87.81	86.55
SP 500	766.25	758.36	766.12	760.57
SP 100	746.28	737.71	746.08	739.80

NYSE

	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Composite	403.96	399.55	400.29	-2.03
Industrials	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-2.02
Transp.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+0.40
Utility	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-1.36
Finance	372.34	366.93	367.32	-3.37

Nasdaq

	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Composite	1265.93	1249.52	1249.52	-7.85
Industrials	1036.21	1028.11	1028.11	-5.17
Banks	1378.86	1372.34	1372.34	-0.87
Insurance	1419.87	1414.58	1419.26	+4.80
Finance	1684.04	1675.32	1675.32	-3.15
Transp.	873.35	869.09	870.47	-2.31

AMEX

High	Low	Last	Chg.
564.33	561.42	562.98	+1.56

Dow Jones Bond

	Previous Close	Today Noon
20 Bonds	101.62	101.67
10 Utilities	98.24	98.34
10 Industrials	105.01	104.99

Most Actives

NYSE

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Merck	103185	85⅝	80¾	81⅜	-3⅞
Seagate s	71438	54	48¾	49¼	-2¾
[illegible]	[illegible]				

Nasdaq

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Cisco	106807	56⅝	54	54⅛	-1¼
Intel	101405	149⅜	142	142½	-4
[illegible]	[illegible]				

AMEX

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
SPDR	23097	77⅜	75⅞	76	-⅝
[illegible]	[illegible]				
TWA	5347	6⅞	6⅝	6⅞	-⅛

Trading Activity

NYSE

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	1276	1363
Declined	1242	1129
Unchanged	820	823
Total issues	3338	3315
New Highs	51	49
New Lows	39	50

Nasdaq

	Noon	Prev.
Advanced	1858	1953
Declined	1576	1988
Unchanged	2328	1809
Total issues	5762	5750
New Highs	62	52
New Lows	124	175

AMEX

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	268	239
Declined	242	270
Unchanged	214	201
Total issues	724	710
New Highs	18	12
New Lows	17	22

Market Sales

	Today 4:00	Prev. cons.
NYSE	456.34	356.11
Amex	19.87	20.43
Nasdaq	523.42	522.45

in millions.

Dividends

Company	Per	Amt	Rec	Pay
IRREGULAR				
Banco De Edw s	-	.6687	4-11	—
Banco Ind Colomb	-	.079	4-25	5-11
Banco Santdr	-	.4245	4-24	—
Coles Myer	-	.7528	4-15	6-3
Madeira Sistel	-	.2813	5-6	5-21
OLS Asia Hld A	-	.1717	4-11	6-2
Puget Sd adjpf B	-	.3562	4-21	5-15
STOCK SPLIT				
Bk Sth Carolina 2 for 1 split.				
Global Telecomm 2 for 1 split.				
Heritage Bncp 2 for 1 split.				
Suffolk Bncp 2 for 1 split.				
TJX Cos 2 for 1 split.				
INCREASED				
Merchants Bcorp	Q	.17	4-15	4-30
TJX Cos	Q	.10	6-11	6-26
INITIAL				
Crescent RE Eq n	-	.305	4-30	5-14
REGULAR				
All Amer Term	M	.085	4-17	4-30
Associate Fst Cap	Q	.10	5-2	6-2
Banyan Strategic	Q	.10	4-22	5-22
Beckman Instrum	Q	.15	5-16	6-5
Blck Broad 2009	M	.075	4-15	4-30
Borg Warner	Q	.15	5-1	5-15
Century Bancorp	Q	.05	5-1	5-15
Greenbrier Cos	Q	.06	4-22	5-14
Heritage Fin	Q	.15	4-21	5-6
Insured Muni Inco	M	.064	4-17	4-30
Invest Grd Muni	M	.075	4-17	4-30
JSB Fincl	Q	.35	5-7	5-21
Managed Hi Yld	M	.105	4-17	4-30
NSL Bancorp	Q	.125	4-15	4-30
Pf Income Fd	M	.087	4-23	4-30
Pd Inco Mngmnt	M	.087	4-23	4-30
Pf Inco Opport	M	.078	4-23	4-30
Procter Gamble	Q	.45	4-18	5-15
Puget Sound	Q	.46	4-21	5-15
RPM Inc	Q	.13	4-18	4-30
Richardson El	Q	.04	5-16	6-2
Riggs Natl	Q	.05	4-21	5-1
Seligman Qlty	M	.0782	4-17	4-28
Seligman Sel Muni	M	.07	4-17	4-28
Shelby Williams	Q	.08	5-1	5-15
Stewart Steve	Q	.085	4-30	5-14
2002 Target Term	M	.0718	4-17	4-30
Trigen Energy	Q	.035	3-31	4-15
UnionBancorp	Q	.035	4-18	4-25
Union Pac Resour	Q	.05	6-11	7-1
VSE Corp	Q	.045	5-1	5-22
Weeks Corp	Q	.42	4-18	4-30

a-annual; b-approximate amount per share/ADR; g-payable in Canadian funds; m-monthly; q-quarterly; s-semi-annual

Stock Tables Explained

Sales figures are unofficial. Yearly highs and lows reflect the previous 52 weeks plus the current week, but not the latest trading day. Where a split or stock dividend amounting to 25 percent or more has been paid, the years high-low range and dividend are shown for the new stocks only. Unless otherwise noted, rates of dividends are annual disbursements based on the latest declaration.

a - dividend also extra (s). b - annual rate of dividend plus stock dividend. c - liquidating dividend. cc - PE exceeds 99. cld - called. d - new yearly low. dd - loss in the last 12 months. e - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months. f - annual rate, increased on last declaration. g - dividend in Canadian funds, subject to 15% non-residence tax. i - dividend declared after split-up or stock dividend. j - dividend paid this year, omitted, deferred, or no action taken at latest dividend meeting. k - dividend declared or paid this year, an accumulative issue with dividends in arrears. m - annual rate, reduced on last declaration. n - new issue in the past 52 weeks. The high-low range begins with the start of trading. nd - next day delivery. p - initial dividend, annual rate unknown. P/E - price-earnings ratio. q - closed-end mutual fund. r - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months, plus stock dividend. s - stock split. Dividend begins with date of split. sls - sales. t - dividend paid in stock in preceding 12 months, estimated cash value on ex-dividend or ex-distribution date. u - new yearly high. v - trading halted. vi - in bankruptcy or receivership or being reorganized under the Bankruptcy Act, or securities assumed by such companies. wd - when distributed. wi - when issued/ ww - with warrants. x - ex-dividend or ex-rights. xdis - ex-distribution. xw - without warrants. y - ex-dividend and sales in full. yld - yield. z - sales in full.

Volvo-Mitsubishi Pact Looks Beyond 2000

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

STOCKHOLM — Volvo AB and Mitsubishi Motors Corp. said Wednesday they would investigate the possibility of producing their "next generation" of cars after 2000 in the Netherlands, a move that would extend six years of what they called "excellent collaboration."

The joint effort will involve the development of a future car platform to be produced at NedCar, the joint venture in the Netherlands owned by Volvo, Mitsubishi and the Dutch government.

Mitsubishi also has agreed to deliver its latest engines, based on gasoline direct injection technology, to the Swedish car maker, and Volvo said the two companies were considering incorporating the technology into the "Volvo engine family." The injection engine offers low fuel consumption and high power. Mitsubishi, which is believed to be the first manufacturer with this technology, says it hopes the fuel efficiency will help it sell cars in Japan, where gasoline is expensive.

NedCar, a venture formed in 1991, is situated in Born, in the southeastern Dutch province of Limburg. It produces the Volvo S40/V40, the Volvo 400 and the Mitsubishi Carisma and has a production capacity of about 200,000 cars.

Volvo said it planned to release injection-powered S40 and V40 models in the first half of 1998 and that Mitsubishi would use the engine in the Carisma starting this autumn.

Mitsubishi Motors declined to say what it had paid to create the engine, which took five years to develop, but the company is rushing to install the engine in its own models in hope of helping to cut gasoline consumption.

Mitsubishi Motors' shares rose 1 yen in Tokyo trading to 911 ($7.25); Volvo's shares closed in Stockholm at 191 kronor ($24.91), down 0.50. *(Bloomberg, Reuters, AFP)*

■ Scania Will Use the Euro

Scania AB, a Swedish truckmaker, will start using the European Union's single currency when it is introduced even if Sweden does not participate in the currency union, Scania's president, Leif Oestling, said, according to a Bloomberg News dispatch from Stockholm.

Sweden has not yet said whether it will seek to join the first group of countries that hope to adopt the euro Jan. 1, 1999.

"Our clients, subcontractors and competitors are going to switch to the new euro," Mr. Oestling said in a magazine published by the Swedish Employers' Association. "If EMU becomes a reality," he said, referring to Europe's planned economic and monetary union, "we will start using the euro regardless of whether Sweden takes part in the monetary cooperation."

That attitude is in line with those of some other international companies based in Sweden. Astra AB's chairman, Bo Berggren, recently said all Swedish companies should make the transition in accordance with Europe's schedule, regardless of Stockholm's stance.

Mercedes Sets Foreign Push In Production

Bloomberg News

STUTTGART — Mercedes-Benz AG, the luxury car unit of Daimler-Benz AG, said Wednesday that it planned to increase foreign production to 25 percent from 5 percent in the next few years.

"We are going to invest on average between 2.5 billion Deutsche marks ($1.46 billion) and 3 billion marks in new products and facilities per year," starting this year, said Juergen Hubbert, the Daimler management board member who is responsible for Mercedes' carmaking unit. "About 25 percent of this will be used to build up foreign capacity to about 25 percent of our total."

Mr. Hubbert said the increase in foreign production reflected growing demand for Mercedes cars and would not be made at the expense of German output, which is also expected to increase.

Mercedes has already announced plans to build 200,000 of its compact A-Class cars at a site in Rastatt, Germany.

The company said earlier that it planned to sell about 1 million cars in three or four years, more than a 50 percent increase from sales of 640,000 units last year.

East German Farms Feel Pain

Court Upholds a Pre-Unification Debt Bill of $6 Billion

By Edmund L. Andrews
New York Times Service

FRANKFURT — Workers in what used to be East Germany have endured wrenching changes since the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, from the collapse of shipyards and chemical plants to soaring unemployment.

But on Tuesday the financial pain of German reunification spread to what had been one of the few bright spots in the Eastern economy — agriculture — when Germany's highest court ruled that farmers must pay $6 billion in debts run up by collective farms during the Communist era.

The debts are likely to weigh on about 2,000 former collective farms, which were converted after reunification in 1990 into for-profit companies, for at least 10 years.

The ruling further angers the farmers because the German government has already forgiven billions of Deutsche marks of debt owed by bankrupt state-owned factories and has pumped billions more into trying to rebuild them from the ground up.

Because Eastern Germany's farms were built from the big co-operatives favored by Communist planners, they are bigger and more efficient than many West German family-owned farms.

If, after reunification, the old collective farms had been considered state-owned enterprises instead of just state-controlled, their debt would have been forgiven years ago. But because the co-operative farms were considered to be owned by their members, the new owners are being held responsible for both the debt and the rising amount of back interest.

"The very least you can say is that this creates uncertainty," said Eugen Roth, managing director of Agrar GmbH Toettelstaedt, a big farming company in Thuringia state. "The decision does not recognize that the economic situation has changed completely since reunification. The companies that borrowed money before are now at a disadvantage."

Mr. Roth said the court ruling should not bankrupt any farms because a provision of the German unity treaty prohibited a bank from collecting payments unless a farm was profitable and limited the repayments to 20 percent of a farm's annual profit.

Nevertheless, the East German farming industry has argued that it is being unfairly treated in comparison with industries where billions of marks were written off.

Since reunification, the German government has pumped more than $1 billion into the modernization of two big shipyards, only to see them collapse into bankruptcy anyway.

Last week, the privatization agency that supervised the sale of old state companies offered to sell the shipyards for 1 Deutsche mark, or 58 U.S. cents, each. The government has also pumped about $20 billion into the old state-owned chemical industry, including the forgiveness of billions in debts.

Mr. Roth and others argued that the privatized farms were being punished for decisions over which they had no control. Under the Communist system, he said, government officials frequently required farms to borrow money to underwrite public projects.

But none of those arguments convinced Frankfurt-based DG Bank, which took over the old East German agricultural bank, or the German constitutional court.

Bank officials said the national unification treaty had been intended to hold the farms responsible for their debts.

Frank Steinmeyer, a spokesman for DG Bank, said German lawmakers had decided as a general principle that debts held by private companies should be treated as valid after reunification. The reason, in part, was that private companies and individuals had been allowed to change many of their nearly worthless East German marks for valuable Deutsche marks on a 1-for-1 basis, and the rest at 2 for 1. Those exchange rates gave the Eastern companies a big windfall of hard currency.

Early this week, Germany's highest court rejected arguments made on behalf of a farm in the Eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt that the unusual debt burden violated the farms' property rights. "The cooperative farms' duty to repay their old debts does not have any such effect," the court ruled.

France Telecom Unveils Rates for '98

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PARIS — France Telecom SA on Wednesday announced the rates it plans to charge other companies using its network when the French telecommunications market is opened next year, a move that analysts said provided clues to how profitable the company would be after it lost its monopoly.

In setting the rates, France Telecom agreed to regulators' demands that it reduce charges to increase competition in Europe's second-largest economy.

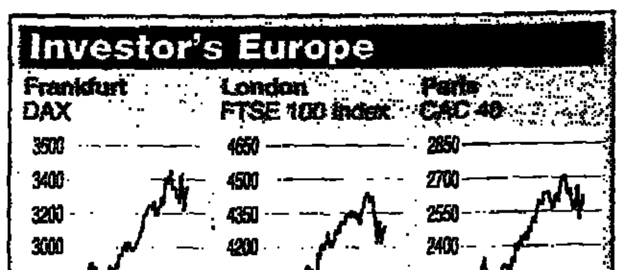
The fees are substantially lower than France Telecom had sought but higher than competitors such as Bouygues Telecom SA were reported to have wanted.

The regulatory body said it would allow the company to charge 6.09 centimes (1.1 U.S. cents) a minute to connect to its local network, 12.78 centimes for calls within French regions and 17.57 centimes for calls between regions within the country.

France Telecom, according to consultation documents published by the Telecommunications Ministry, had proposed to charge 16 centimes a minute for local calls, 18 centimes a minute for calls between cities and 26 centimes a minute for long-distance calls.

Now that the rates have been set, analysts said they would have a measure of how profitable France Telecom might be after losing its monopoly in January. The rates will also help determine a value for the state-owned company before its initial public offering in May, which is expected to raise as much as 50 billion francs ($8.65 billion). *(Bloomberg, AFP)*

Investor's Europe



Exchange	Index	Wednesday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Amsterdam	AEX	738.69	727.61	+1.52
Brussels	BEL-20	2,120.84	2,114.43	+0.30
Frankfurt	DAX	3,359.46	3,329.76	+0.89
Copenhagen	Stock Market	531.36	527.14	+0.80
Helsinki	HEX General	2,872.82	2,836.30	+1.29
Oslo	OBX	595.98	589.76	+1.05
London	FTSE 100	4,292.30	4,269.20	+0.54
Madrid	Stock Exchange	481.64	477.02	+0.97
Milan	MIBTEL	12078	11920	+1.33
Paris	CAC 40	2,617.55	2,579.00	+1.49
Stockholm	SX 16	2,817.56	2,856.47	-1.36
Vienna	ATX	1,187.94	1,188.13	+0.35
Zurich	SPI	2,929.78	2,898.96	+1.06

Source: Telekurs — International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- Fokker NV administrators said a sale of its remaining assets now looked inevitable after the Malaysian government said it had pulled out of rescue talks for the bankrupt planemaker.
- The European Commission will rule against Anglo American Corp. of South Africa Ltd.'s purchase of what the commission calls a controlling stake in Lonrho PLC, claiming that it could distort competition in the platinum industry.
- Gazprom AO's chairman, Rem Vyakhirev, said foreign interests are behind government moves to break it up. Pressure to break up Russia's monopolies is being applied "under the influence, or even the orders, of international financial institutions," he said.
- Marks & Spencer PLC, a British retailer, said it would open 15 to 20 stores in Germany by 2007. It opened its first German store, in Cologne, in October.
- German labor leaders faced immediate opposition from employers to a proposal to create jobs by shortening the work week. *Bloomberg, Reuters, AFP*

Creditanstalt's Net Surges 35%

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

VIENNA — Creditanstalt, taking stock of its last year as an independent bank, reported on Wednesday a 35 percent rise in 1996 net profit and said its new owner and former foe, Bank Austria, could expect more good news this year.

Creditanstalt, which was bought by Bank Austria on Jan. 12, said 1996 net profit rose to 2.93 billion schillings ($243 million). The company said it spurred profit by establishing investment banking activities abroad while keeping costs down in Austria.

Operating profit rose to 6.47 billion schillings from 6.14 billion in 1995. *(Reuters, Bloomberg)*

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Wednesday, April 9
Prices in local currencies.
Telekurs

Amsterdam AEX index: 738.69 Previous: 727.61

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
ABN-AMRO	127.40	125.50	127.10	124.90
Aegon	131.10	127.20	130.90	127
Ahold	135.40	132.20	135.40	130.50
Akzo Nobel	270.20	268.70	270	267.50
Baan Co.	92.50	90.90	91.80	90.50
Bols Wess cva	37.10	36.10	37	36.10
CSM cva	109.50	108.10	109.60	108.50
Dordtsche Pet	355.70	350	353.50	347.40
DSM	188.80	186.70	187.50	186.50
Elsevier	31.10	30.80	31.10	30.80
Fortis Amev	71.10	70	71	70.10
Getronics	61.20	59.80	60.90	59.70
G-Broc cva	61.90	61.20	61.80	61.20
Hagemeyer	161.50	159.50	161	159.50
Heineken	325.80	320.50	324.30	320.10
Hoogovens cva	92.60	91.30	92.20	90.90
Hunt Douglas	152.20	152	152.50	150.20
ING Group	74.30	73.30	74.20	73.30
KLM	56.90	55.20	55.40	56.30
KNP BT	39.40	38.80	39.10	39.90
KPN	69.20	68.50	69	68.20
Nedlloyd Gp	48.80	48	48.70	47.60
Nutricia	288	286	287.40	283.50
Oce Grinten	242.80	238.70	240.10	237.90
Philips Elec	90.70	89.30	89.90	88.80
Polygram	96.60	95.30	96.40	95
Randstad Hdg	164	160.90	163	160.70
Robeco	160.50	159.40	159.50	158.20
Rodamco	60.10	59.50	59.60	59.70
Rolinco	163.60	163	162.40	162.30
Rorento	108.40	108.20	108.20	108.30
Royal Dutch	339	327.60	330.70	326
Unilever cva	354.40	349.50	353.10	348.70
Vendex Intl	90.50	89.10	89.90	88.90
VNU	40.80	39.40	40.40	39.40
Wolters Kl cva	235	231.50	234	230.80

Bangkok SET index: 712.63 Previous: 715.36

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Adv Info Svc	234	226	226	234
Bangkok Bk F	0.00	0.00	0.00	278
Krung Thai Bk	38.25	37	37.75	38
PTT Explor	344	328	328	342
Siam Cement F	0.00	0.00	0.00	672
Siam Com Bk F	0.00	0.00	0.00	179
Telecomasia	47	45.75	47	46.50
Thai Airways	46.50	45.50	45.50	45.50
Thai Farm Bk F	0.00	0.00	0.00	185
Utd Comm	169	165	169	166

Bombay Sensex 30 index: 3650.89 Previous: 3520.49

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Bajaj Auto	984.75	967	975.50	969.25
Hindust Lever	1069	1049	1062.50	1045.75
Hindust Petm	385	381.50	383.50	380.75
Ind Dev Bk	94	91.50	92	90.25
ITC	389.50	370	387.75	361
Mahanagar Tel	269.25	262	267.25	258
Reliance Ind	275	265.75	274.25	264.25
State Bk India	286	270.50	284.50	265.75
Steel Authority	20.75	19.50	20.75	19
Tata Eng Loco	385.50	369	383	364.50

Brussels BEL-20 index: 2120.84 Previous: 2114.43

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Almanij	13700	13400	13700	13400
Barco Ind	5900	5870	5900	5880
BBL	7770	7700	7730	7710
CBR	3390	3345	3390	3355
Colruyt	14275	13975	14000	14125
Delhaize Lion	1785	1770	1780	1760
Electrabel	7880	7830	7840	7850
Electrafina	3520	3460	3520	3500
Fortis AG	6030	5960	5990	5970
Gevaert	2560	2530	2540	2540
GBL	5140	5120	5140	5090
Gen Banque	13850	13525	13600	13775
Kredietbank	12650	12450	12600	12300
Petrofina	12100	12000	12025	11925
Powerfin	4900	4850	4890	4880
Royale Belge	8800	8730	8760	8800
Soc Gen Belg	3005	2985	3000	2985
Solvay	20500	20250	20250	20475
Tractebel	14850	14750	14775	14780
UCB	90000	89200	90000	89000

Copenhagen Stock Index: 531.35 Previous: 527.14

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
BG Bank	293	288	290	287
Carlsberg B	385	382	384	386
Codan Fors	875	870	875	870
Danisco	400	385	396	387
Den Danske Bk	551.55	546	548	550
D/S Svenbrg B	265000	265000	265000	264000
D/S 1912 B	185000	182000	185000	183000
FLS Ind B	896	889	890	885
Kob Lufthavne	650	644	644	645
Novo Nordisk B	685	668	680	670
Sophus Ber B	828	820	827	825
Tele Danmk B	347	342	345	342
Tryg Baltica	355	340	352	340
Unidanmark A	387.65	346	347	347

Frankfurt DAX: 3359.46 Previous: 3329.76

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AMB B	1390	1340	1360	1350
Adidas	182	176.50	179	180.20
Allianz Hdg	3253	3188	3196	3219
Altana	1385	1355	1380	1359
Bk Berlin	32.65	32.50	32.65	32.65
BASF	66.30	65.75	66.05	65.90
Bayer Hypo Bk	58.50	55.35	55.40	56.30
Bay.Vereinsbank	69	67.80	68.25	66.30
Bayer	70.29	69.50	69.90	69.32
Beiersdorf	90.50	90	90.20	89.80
Bewag	447	445.50	445.50	446
BMW	1419	1380	1402	1341
CKAG Colonia	158	155	158	151
Commerzbank	46.65	46.35	46.50	46.20
Daimler Benz	130.70	130	130	129.60
Degussa	714	710	714	705
Deutsche Bank	91.15	90.25	90.60	90.85
Deut Telekom	37.95	37.65	37.90	37.55
Dresdner Bank	59.10	58.20	58.70	58.70
Fresenius	358	356	358	347
Fresenius Med	158.60	157.10	157.50	149.70
Fried. Krupp	315	312	315	309
Gehe	114.50	113	113.20	113
Heidelbg Zmt	144.50	143	143	142.50
Henkel pfd	91	89.20	91	88.30
HEW	492	492	0.00	0.00
Hochtief	71.30	68	68.75	71
Hoechst	69.30	68.25	68.80	67.12
Karstadt	538.50	531	534	528
Linde	1135	1128	1122	1112
Lufthansa	22.60	22.25	22.45	22.20
MAN	470	467	466.30	470
Mannesmann	647	643	644.50	636.50
Metallgesellschaft	36.50	35.90	36.11	36.25
Metro	161.50	158	159.10	158
Munch Rueck R	4170	4120	4135	4145
Preussag	442.50	438	441	436
Rheinelektra	1250	1250	1250	1240
RWE	70.20	68.90	69.95	68.40
SAP pfd	290.80	286	290.50	287.80
Schering	169	168.20	169	168
SGL Carbon	242	238	238	233.50
Siemens	88.47	87.90	88.10	87.65
Springer (Axel)	1340	1340	0.00	0.00
Suedzucker	830	827	830	829
Thyssen	366.50	358.90	363	356.60
Veba	92.15	91.80	92.15	90.38
VEW	508	499	500	499
Viag	759	748	759	745.50
Volkswagen	943	930	941.50	921.70

Helsinki HEX General index: 2872.82 Previous: 2836.30

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Enso A	42	42	42	41.80
Huhtamaki I	244	243	244	243
Kemira	53.60	52.50	53.40	52
Kesko	72.50	71.60	72	71.50
Merita A	16.60	16.30	16.60	16.40
Metra B	145	144.50	144.60	145
Metsa-Serla B	38.50	38	38	37.70
Neste	126	123.60	124.90	126
Nokia A	309.50	300	308.90	305
Orion-Yhtymae	198	197	197	197
Outokumpu A	93	89	92.10	89.50
UPM-Kymmene	116	111.90	116	111
Valmet	91	88	89.50	87

Hong Kong Hang Seng: 12426.68 Previous: 12298.57

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amoy Props	8.30	8.15	8.25	8.20
Bk East Asia	26.40	26.10	26.30	26.10
Cathay Pacific	12	11.95	12	12
Cheung Kong	65.50	64.25	64.75	65
CK Infrastruct	21.75	21.30	21.35	21.70
China Light	33.70	33.40	33.50	33.50
Citic Pacific	38.10	37.70	37.90	37.70
Dao Heng Bk	34.80	34.10	34.70	34
First Pacific	10	9.90	10	9.90
Hang Lung Dev	14.75	14.60	14.70	14.65
Hang Seng Bk	80.25	79.25	79.75	79.75
Henderson Inv	7.95	7.80	7.95	7.90
Henderson Ld	64	63.50	63.75	63.75
HK China Gas	14.80	14.55	14.75	14.60
HK Electric	27.40	27.30	27.40	27.30
HK Telecomm	13.45	13.30	13.35	13.35
Hopewell Hdgs	4.08	4.03	4.05	4.03
HSBC Hdgs	182	180.50	181.50	180.50
Hutchison Wh	56	55.25	56	55.50
Hysan Dev	23.20	22.95	23.05	23
Johnson El Hdg	19.35	19.10	19.25	19
Kerry Props	18	17.90	17.95	18
New World Dev	41.70	41.10	41.60	41.50
Oriental Press	3.03	2.98	3	2.95
Pearl Oriental	5.98	5.80	5.80	5.90
SHK Props	79	77.50	77.50	79
Shun Tak Hdgs	5.30	5.05	5.15	5.15
Sino Land Co.	7.60	7.50	7.60	7.55
Sth China Post	7.05	6.90	7	6.90
Swire Pac A	61	60	60.25	60.50
Wharf Hdgs	31.50	30.90	31.40	31.30
Wheelock	17.20	17	17.15	16.90

Markets Closed

Stock markets in Jakarta and Manila were closed Wednesday for a holiday.

Johannesburg All Market: 7048.37 Previous: 7044.13

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amalgamtd Bks	29.15	29.05	29.10	29.10
AngloAm Coal	293	293	295	295
AngloAm Corp	277.75	276.50	276.25	276.25
AngloAm Gold	306.50	306.50	306.50	306.50
AngloAm Ind	179	178.50	178.75	178.75
AVMIN	18.50	18.30	18.25	18.25
Barlow	48.55	48.20	48.50	48.50
C.G. Smith	26.20	26.05	26.10	26.10
De Beers	165.25	164.50	163.50	163.50
Driefontein	42	41.75	41.75	41.75
Fst Natl Bk	30.80	29.65	30.80	30.80
Gencor	19.60	19.45	19.50	19.50
GFSA	110.25	110	110	110
Imperial Hdgs	55.25	55	55	55
Ingwe Coal	28.35	28.25	28.30	28.30
Iscor	3.38	3.32	3.32	3.32
Johnnies Indl	59.25	59	58.75	58.75
Liberty Hdgs	330.50	329.50	329	329
Liberty Life	125	124.50	124.75	124.75
LibLife Strat	15.35	15.25	15.20	15.20
Minorco	100.25	100	99.75	99.75
Nampak	18.70	18.60	18.40	18.40
Nedcor	86.25	86	86	86
Rembrandt Gp	46.90	46	46.40	46.40
Richemont	57	56.50	56.75	56.75
Rust Platinum	66.25	66.25	67	67
SA Breweries	136	135.75	136	136
Samancor	53.25	53.25	53.25	53.25
Sasol	51.25	50.50	50	50
SBIC	186	185	184	184
Tiger Oats	78	77.75	78.25	78.25

Kuala Lumpur Composite: 1163.85 Previous: 1162.25

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AMMB Hdgs	19.40	19	19.20	18.90
Genting	15.30	14.90	15	15.10
Mal Banking	27.50	27	27.25	27.25
Mal Intl Ship F	6.35	6.20	6.30	6.35
Petronas Gas	9.15	9.05	9.15	9.05
Proton	15.80	15.50	15.60	15.60
Public Bk	4.82	4.68	4.70	4.74
Renong	4.02	3.92	3.92	3.90
Resorts World	10.40	10.20	10.30	10.20
Rothmans PM	23.50	22.50	22.80	22.50
Sime Darby	8.70	8.55	8.60	8.60
Telekom Mal	19.60	19	19.20	19.50
Tenaga	12.20	12	12	12
Utd Engineers	21.30	20.60	20.70	20.40
YTL	12.40	12.10	12.20	12.30

London FT-SE 100: 4292.30 Previous: 4269.20

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Abbey Natl	7.84	7.70	7.73	7.70
Allied Domecq	4.47	4.37	4.43	4.44
Anglian Water	6.43	6.33	6.39	6.32
Argos	6.77	6.65	6.69	6.73
Asda Group	1.13	1.10	1.12	1.12
Assoc Br Foods	5.32	5.28	5.30	5.31
BAA	5.11	5	5.06	5.01
Barclays	10.70	10.62	10.63	10.59
Bass	8.27	8.15	8.21	8.16
BAT Ind	5.27	5.13	5.22	5.23
Bank Scotland	3.25	3.20	3.22	3.22
Blue Circle	4.12	4.07	4.09	4.08
BOC Group	9.50	9.40	9.43	9.43
Boots	6.90	6.83	6.88	6.82
BPB Ind	3.34	3.29	3.32	3.32
Brit Aerosp	13.55	13.40	13.42	13.54
Brit Airways	6.46	6.36	6.42	6.42
BG	1.88	1.75	1.77	1.78
Brit Land	5.54	5.47	5.51	5.44
Brit Petm	6.95	6.83	6.88	6.83
BSkyB	6.01	5.83	5.99	5.86
Brit Steel	1.53	1.50	1.51	1.53
Brit Telecom	4.39	4.33	4.33	4.32
BTR	2.58	2.50	2.52	2.54
Burmah Castrol	11.09	10	10.09	9.98
Burton Gp	1.56	1.53	1.54	1.54
Cable Wireless	4.98	4.91	4.97	4.94
Cadbury Schw	5.32	5.15	5.31	5.29
Carlton Comm	5.26	5.14	5.23	5.28
Coml Union	6.79	6.50	6.51	6.47
Compass Gp	6.79	6.62	6.66	6.65
Courtaulds	3.57	3.48	3.54	3.59
Dixons	5.39	5.26	5.31	5.45
Electrocomponents	4.02	3.97	4.01	3.99
EMI Group	11.65	11.50	11.63	11.55
Energy Group	5.02	4.88	4.88	4.99
Enterprise Oil	6.21	6.13	6.15	6.18
Fam Colonial	1.53	1.51	1.52	1.52
Genl Accident	8.17	8.06	8.11	8.05
GEC	3.79	3.72	3.77	3.81
GKN	9.95	9.90	9.93	9.87
Glaxo Wellcome	10.92	10.80	10.87	10.81
Granada Gp	9.12	9.03	9.10	9.10
Grand Met	4.92	4.85	4.89	4.83
GRE	2.80	2.73	2.80	2.76
Greenalls Gp	5.37	5.28	5.35	5.31
Guinness	5.01	4.94	4.98	4.96
GUS	6.44	6.30	6.39	6.33
Hays	5.32	5.29	5.31	5.31
HSBC Hldgs	14.57	14.45	14.54	14.37
ICI	7.36	7.16	7.20	7.21
Impl Tobacco	4.12	4.08	4.11	4.09
Kingfisher	6.81	6.72	6.75	6.73
Ladbroke	2.27	2.22	2.24	2.22
Land Sec	7.90	7.76	7.86	7.74
Lasmo	2.37	2.28	2.34	2.34
Legal Genl Grp	3.98	3.88	3.95	3.92
Lloyds TSB Gp	5.13	5.04	5.09	4.99
LucasVarity	2.09	2.06	2.08	2.06
Marks Spencer	4.93	4.89	4.92	4.92
MEPC	4.76	4.69	4.73	4.68
Mercury Asset	12.60	12.45	12.53	12.54
National Grid	2.13	2.08	2.11	2.10
Natl Power	5.15	5.05	5.13	5.01
NatWest	7.14	6.97	7.08	7.04
Next	6.32	6.21	6.29	6.22
Orange	2.09	2.05	2.05	2.07
P&O	6.48	6.23	6.25	6.29
Pearson	7.45	7.28	7.40	7.30
Pilkington	1.24	1.20	1.23	1.21
PowerGen	6.14	6.07	6.14	6.06
Premier Farnell	4.60	4.56	4.58	4.58
Prudential	5.68	5.60	5.67	5.58
Railtrack PP	4.22	4.18	4.18	4.20
Rank Group	4.57	4.36	4.38	4.36
Reckitt Colm	7.94	7.82	7.87	7.85
Redland	3.55	3.49	3.54	3.53
Reed Intl	11.40	11.20	11.33	11.28
Rentokil Initial	4.11	4.06	4.09	4.09
Reuters Hdgs	6.02	5.93	5.97	5.96
Rexam	3.30	3.24	3.29	3.28
RMC Group	10.05	9.73	9.82	9.74
Rolls Royce	2.46	2.42	2.44	2.42
Royal Bk Scot	5.53	5.42	5.51	5.42
RTZ reg	9.57	9.45	9.52	9.48
Royal & Sun All	4.62	4.42	4.45	4.44
Safeway	3.71	3.64	3.67	3.47
Sainsbury	3.32	3.26	3.28	3.28
Schroders	15.84	15.60	15.60	15.78
Scot Newcastle	6.75	6.68	6.72	6.69
Scot Power	3.74	3.69	3.70	3.69
Securicor	2.85	2.83	2.85	2.85
Severn Trent	7.22	7.05	7.15	7.06
Shell Transp R	10.55	10.40	10.52	10.38
Siebe	9.85	9.73	9.82	9.81
Smith Nephew	1.77	1.72	1.74	1.73
SmithKline	9.15	8.92	9.12	8.93
Smiths Ind	8.08	7.79	7.84	7.97
Sthern Elec	4.11	4.02	4.11	4.04
Stagecoach	6.50	6.40	6.46	6.46
Stand Charter	8.60	8.43	8.43	8.45
Tate & Lyle	4.37	4.31	4.36	4.32
Tesco	3.66	3.59	3.63	3.63
Thames Water	6.75	6.64	6.72	6.65
3i Group	5.13	5.06	5.09	5.07
TI Group	5.58	5.46	5.54	5.55
Tomkins	2.85	2.73	2.75	2.75
Unilever	15.39	15.15	15.30	15.17
Utd Assurance	4.75	4.71	4.72	4.74
Utd News	7.28	7.19	7.26	7.19
Utd Utilities	6.47	6.38	6.44	6.40
Vendome Lx uts	5.20	5.13	5.13	5.17
Vodafone	2.87	2.83	2.85	2.85
Whitbread	7.83	7.72	7.81	7.74
Williams Hdgs	3.21	3.17	3.19	3.18
Wolseley	5	4.93	5	4.88
WPP Group	2.55	2.48	2.52	2.48
Zeneca	18.06	17.65	17.84	17.68

Madrid Bolsa index: 482.80 Previous: 478.22

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Acerinox	20470	20050	20200	20400
ACESA	1675	1655	1660	1655
Aguas Barcelon	5470	5350	5430	5410
Argentaria	6250	6120	6220	6120
BBV	8770	8670	8750	8620
Banesto	1095	1080	1085	1090
Bankinter	19440	19220	19310	19200
Bco Centro Hisp	3865	3840	3845	3840
Bco Exterior	2800	2800	2800	2750
Bco Popular	26550	26140	26250	25920
Bco Santander	9870	9740	9770	9790
CEPSA	4420	4320	4410	4230
Continente	2545	2515	2515	2510
Corp Mapfre	7120	7050	7070	7060
Endesa	9390	9340	9360	9290
FECSA	1215	1200	1205	1195
Gas Natural	32100	31690	31820	31630
Iberdrola	1655	1630	1645	1625
Pryca	2645	2600	2600	2625
Repsol	6150	6050	6150	6010
Sevillana Elec	1310	1285	1290	1300
Tabacalera	7190	7030	7130	7040
Telefonica	3450	3400	3435	3400
Union Fenosa	1205	1180	1190	1190
Valenc Cement	1760	1735	1745	1760

Mexico Bolsa index: 3808.33 Previous: 3784.31

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Alfa A	45.50	44.90	45.40	45.25
Banacci B	18.40	18.12	18.12	18.40
Cemex CPO	29.30	28.85	28.90	29.00
Cifra C	11.78	10.90	11.18	10.80
Emp Modema	39.45	39.45	39.45	39.40
Gpo Carso A1	47.40	47.00	47.40	46.45
Gpo F Bcomer	1.83	1.83	1.83	1.83
Gpo Fin Inbursa	29.00	28.80	28.90	28.90
Kimb Clark Mex	31.10	30.60	30.70	31.00
Televisa CPO	103.20	102.80	102.50	101.40
TelMex L	15.92	15.84	15.90	15.70

Milan MIB Telematico: 12078.00 Previous: 11920.00

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Alleanza Assic	11850	11410	11825	11495
Bca Comm Ital	3465	3330	3450	3385
Bca Fideuram	4440	4250	4370	4300
Bca di Roma	1215	1170	1215	1190
Benetton	21850	21050	21700	21580
Credito Italiano	2425	2390	2415	2410
Edison	8970	8690	8900	8685
ENI	8315	8115	8310	8155
Fiat	5510	5365	5490	5420
Generali Assic	30300	29700	30050	30000
IMI	15275	14910	15000	15070
INA	2340	2290	2335	2305
Italgas	5895	5615	5820	5645
Mediaset	7110	6935	7050	6950
Mediobanca	10265	9815	10170	9900
Montedison	1129	1095	1123	1099
Olivetti	609	600	607	604
Parmalat	2545	2445	2510	2480
Pirelli	3775	3670	3760	3695
RAS	15085	14700	15000	14925
Rolo Banca	15700	14970	15645	15090
S Paolo Torino	11420	10875	11305	11050
Stet	7880	7630	7800	7750
Telecom Italia	4475	4330	4475	4405
TIM	4905	4725	4875	4815

Montreal Industrials index: 2793.73 Previous: 2797.37

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Bce Mob Com	41.20	41.20	41.20	40¾
Cdn Tire A	24.30	24¼	24.30	24.15
Cdn Util A	31	30.80	30.80	31
CT Finl Svc	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	33¼
Gaz Metro	17	16.80	17	17
Gt-West Lifeco	23¼	23	23	23¼
Imasco	33.65	33	33.05	33.70
Investors Grp	24½	24¼	24¼	24½
Loblaw Cos	17.15	17.10	17.10	17
Natl Bk Canada	14.35	14.10	14.20	14.05
Power Corp	27.90	27¾	27.85	27¾
Power Finl	26½	26½	26½	26
Quebecor B	24.90	24.85	24.85	24.80
Rogers Comm B	8.20	8.20	8.30	8.10
Royal Bk Cda	54.40	53.60	53.85	54.10

Oslo OBX index: 595.98 Previous: 589.76

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Aker A	184.50	179	180	182.50
Bergesen Dy A	145	144	144	145
Christiania Bk	24.60	24.30	24.40	24.20
Den norske Bk	27.80	27.70	27.80	27.60
Elkem	127.50	126	127.50	126
Hafslund A	47	46.50	47	46.50
Kvaerner Asa	342	338	340	338
Norsk Hydro	336	332	333	329
Norske Skog A	229	225	226	221
Nycomed A	102.50	101	102.50	101
Orkla Asa A	552	545	551	541
Petim GeoSvc	283	277	283	279
Saga Petlm A	113.50	112	112.50	111
Schibsted	130	128.50	129	128
Transocean Off	435	425	435	415
Storebrand Asa	46.70	46.50	46.70	46.20

Paris CAC-40: 2617.55 Previous: 2579.00

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Accor	825	817	824	815
AGF	201.40	199.50	200.70	200
Air Liquide	883	871	882	860
Alcatel Alsth	691	666	687	667
Axa-UAP	369.50	367	367.70	365.10
Bancaire	744	724	744	716
BIC	873	851	858	845
BNP	243.90	239.60	241	237.10
Canal Plus	1087	1065	1085	1046
Carrefour	3518	3470	3514	3433
Casino	253.80	249.80	252.40	247.80
CCF	263	253	254.30	253.70
Cetelem	660	647	652	652
Christian Dior	840	820	834	817
CLF-Dexia Fran	586	577	579	577
Credit Agricole	1275	1255	1275	1255
Danone	897	887	890	879
Elf-Aquitaine	552	539	544	539
Eridania BS	904	885	893	882
Eurodisney	10	9.90	9.90	10
Eurotunnel	6.65	6.55	6.60	6.65
Gen. Eaux	779	761	772	769
Havas	422.90	414.50	415.50	411.50
Imetal	834	826	830	828
Lafarge	387	380.10	384	376
Legrand	1039	1016	1039	1014
L'Oreal	2019	1968	1995	1914
LVMH	1359	1334	1346	1328
Lyon. Eaux	550	542	542	540
Michelin B	348.60	344	346.50	341
Paribas A	375	368.40	368.50	367.20
Pernod Ricard	321	314	319	310.80
Peugeot Cit	630	619	622	621
Pinault-Prin	2393	2363	2383	2340
Promodes	1973	1938	1959	1924
Renault	149.40	143.70	146.50	141.90
Rexel	1678	1616	1663	1670
Rh-Poulenc A	184.20	180	181.30	182.20
Sanofi	544	533	535	536
Schneider	322.80	314	321.20	314
SEB	1019	1009	1019	1004
SGS Thomson	425	414.10	414.10	420
Ste Generale	656	643	645	646
Sodexho	2885	2760	2775	2800
St Gobain	797	783	787	788
Suez	287	281.50	283	282
Synthelabo	642	623	626	613
Thomson CSF	191.90	190	191.70	189.90
Total B	476.50	467.50	475.50	467
Usinor	91.30	90	90.50	90.80
Valeo	369	361.30	366.30	362

São Paulo Bovespa index: 9835.88 Previous: 9737.78

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Bradesco Pfd	8.96	8.80	8.85	8.95
Brahma Pfd	710.50	700.00	706.00	703.00
Cemig Pfd	48.45	47.80	48.30	48.20
CESP Pfd	60.50	58.70	59.00	58.90
Copel	16.50	16.40	16.40	16.49
Eletrobras	486.50	476.00	483.00	474.00
Itaubanco Pfd	582.00	555.01	582.00	555.00
Light Servicios	442.50	437.00	441.00	440.99
Lightpar	360.00	348.00	349.80	360.00
Petrobras Pfd	217.50	213.00	216.80	212.50
Paulista Luz	158.90	158.00	158.50	158.50
Sid Nacional	38.80	38.60	38.70	38.80
Souza Cruz	8.75	8.74	8.75	8.80
Telebras Pfd	124.20	121.50	122.70	121.30
Telemig	168.00	167.00	167.00	167.00
Telerj	175.00	172.00	175.00	172.60
Telesp Pfd	313.00	308.00	308.00	308.00
Unibanco	39.00	38.70	38.85	39.00
Usiminas Pfd	1.19	1.18	1.18	1.18
CVRD Pfd	25.50	25.00	25.35	25.10

Seoul Composite index: 698.46 Previous: 694.97

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Dacom	104000	101000	102500	104000
Daewoo Heavy	4930	4700	4730	4780
Hyundai Eng.	19800	19500	19600	19800
Kia Motors	15400	14900	15000	15500
Korea El Pwr	27000	26700	27000	26900
Korea Exch Bk	6100	5650	5720	5840
Korea Mob Tel	465000	457000	465000	457000
LG Semicon	30600	29700	30600	29700
Pohang Iron St	54400	52900	53500	54000
Samsung Display	42700	41700	42400	42400
Samsung Elec	64700	64000	64500	64200
Shinhan Bank	10700	10500	10500	10700

Singapore Straits Times: 2103.20 Previous: 2104.71

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Asia Pac Brew	7.15	7	7	7.25
Cerebos Pac	9.60	9.45	9.45	9.45
City Devlts	14.20	13.60	13.70	14.10
Cycle Carriage	15.50	15.20	15.40	15.40
Dairy Farm Intl *	0.72	0.70	0.72	0.71
DBS foreign	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	18.10
DBS Land	5.45	5.30	5.35	5.35
Fraser & Neave	12	11.60	11.80	11.80
HK Land *	2.32	2.29	2.31	2.29
Jard Mathesn *	5.65	5.60	5.65	5.65
Jard Strategic *	3.68	3.64	3.66	3.66
Keppel	9.40	9.20	9.20	9.25
Keppel Bank	4.04	3.94	4	3.94
Keppel Fels	4.62	4.58	4.60	4.62
Keppel Land	4.66	4.54	4.66	4.54
OCBC foreign	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	17.90
OS Union Bk F	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	10.40
Parkway Hdgs	6.15	6.05	6.15	6.05
Sembawang	7.20	7.10	7.15	7.15
Sing Air foreign	12.10	11.90	12.00	11.80
Sing Land	7.40	7.25	7.30	7.30
Sing Press F	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	27
Sing Tech Ind	3.88	3.82	3.88	3.84
Sing Telecomm	3	2.96	2.97	2.99
Tat Lee Bank	3.46	3.42	3.44	3.44
Utd Industrial	1.17	1.15	1.15	1.15
Utd O'Sea Bk F	15.90	15.50	15.60	15.70
Wing Tai Hdgs	4.44	4.38	4.38	4.42

*: in U.S. dollars.

Stockholm SX 16 index: 2817.56 Previous: 2856.47

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AGA B	107	105.50	105.50	106
ABB A	862	855	860	853
AssiDoman	201	198	198.50	200
Astra A	351	340	341.50	350.50
Atlas Copco A	193.50	187	190	187
Autoliv	310	295	298.50	308.50
Electrolux B	468	463.50	466	469.50
Ericsson B	256	241.50	250	254.50
Hennes B	1020	998	1000	1005
Incentive A	505	500	502	502
Investor B	350	344	344.50	347
MoDo B	230	224.50	225.50	225
Nordbanken	248	238	242	245.50
Pharm/Upjohn	273.50	269	270.50	275
Sandvik B	196.50	194	194.50	195
Scania B	184	182	182.50	183
SCA B	166	161.50	162.50	164.50
S-E Banken A	81	80	80.50	80.50
Skandia Fors	222	215.50	216.50	221
Skanska B	335	328	330	329.50
SKF B	193.50	188	188.50	191
Sparbanken A	135.50	131	135.50	133.50
Stadshypotek A	190	190	190	190
Stora A	103	101	101.50	101.50
Sv Handles A	225	217	219.50	223.50
Volvo B	193	190.50	191	191.50

Sydney All Ordinaries: 2369.20 Previous: 2368.90

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amcor	8.16	8.05	8.06	8.10
ANZ Bkng	8.09	7.71	7.89	8
BHP	17	16.79	16.89	16.75
Boral	3.61	3.59	3.60	3.61
Brambles Ind.	21.70	20.70	21.60	20.55
CBA	13	12.78	12.98	12.70
CC Amatil	14.13	13.97	14.06	14.05
Coles Myer	6.01	5.96	6	5.90
Comalco	6.38	6.30	6.35	6.30
CRA	18.89	18.65	18.70	18.85
CSR	4.72	4.68	4.71	4.67
Fosters Brew	2.58	2.54	2.57	2.57
Goodman Fld	1.66	1.64	1.65	1.65
ICI Australia	11.60	11.30	11.60	11.24
Lend Lease	22.55	21.86	22.53	21.76
MIM Hdgs	1.66	1.65	1.65	1.65
Nat Aust Bank	16.14	15.73	16.11	15.72
Nat Mutual Hdg	1.91	1.84	1.88	1.83
News Corp	5.85	5.81	5.84	5.84
Pacific Dunlop	3.26	3.18	3.22	3.18
Pioneer Intl	4.21	4.10	4.19	4.09
Pub Broadcast	6.58	6.53	6.57	6.51
St George Bank	8.05	7.88	8	7.80
WMC	7.82	7.60	7.82	7.61
Westpac Bking	7	6.65	6.67	6.87
Woodside Pet	9.29	9.14	9.22	9.19
Woolworths	3.62	3.56	3.58	3.57

Taipei Stock Market index: 8455.82 Previous: 8468.63

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Cathay Life Ins	170	165	170	163
Chang Hwa Bk	178	174	177	174
Chiao Tung Bk	79	77	79	76
China Develpmt	125	120.50	125	122
China Steel	30.90	29.90	30.40	29.30
First Bank	178	174	178	174
Formosa Plastic	70.50	67	70.50	67.50
Hua Nan Bk	135	132.50	134.50	132
Intl Comm Bk	79.50	77.50	79	77.50
Nan Ya Plastics	65.50	62.50	65.50	62.50
Shin Kong Life	107.50	101.50	107.50	100.50
Taiwan Semi	80	77	79.50	79
Tatung	57	55.50	57	55.50
Utd Micro Elec	67.50	64	66	65.50
Utd World Chin	76	72.50	76	73

Tokyo Nikkei 225: 17703.37 Previous: 18021.78

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Ajinomoto	980	966	966	980
All Nippon Air	724	702	702	726
Amway	3420	3380	3420	3410
Asahi Bank	740	695	700	720
Asahi Chem	680	661	665	658
Asahi Glass	1090	1080	1080	1080
Bk Tokyo Mitsu	1910	1830	1830	1900
Bk Yokohama	530	520	520	530
Bridgestone	2590	2540	2550	2580
Canon	2960	2900	2940	2930
Chubu Elec	2040	2010	2020	2040
Chugoku Elec	2010	1970	1980	2010
Dai Nipp Print	2150	2120	2130	2150
Daiei	570	515	569	562
Dai-Ichi Kang	1260	1200	1210	1260
Daiwa Bank	357	338	347	356
Daiwa House	1430	1400	1400	1430
Daiwa Sec	750	711	715	745
DDI	8450a	8300a	8300a	8290a
Denso	2620	2550	2550	2590
East Japan Ry	5360a	5070a	5120a	5360a
Eisai	2270	2210	2230	2240
Fanuc	4130	4050	4090	4100
Fuji Bank	1320	1270	1270	1330
Fuji Photo	4340	4300	4320	4310
Fujitsu	1310	1290	1300	1290
Hachijuni Bk	1120	1080	1080	1110
Hitachi	1140	1120	1130	1140
Honda Motor	3910	3860	3880	3880
IBJ	1180	1130	1130	1170
IHI	450	441	448	444
Itochu	558	547	555	558
Ito-Yokado	5720	5640	5670	5700
JAL	450	450	450	457
Japan Tobacco	8030a	7950a	7980a	8040a
Jusco	3710	3650	3700	3680
Kajima	501	481	486	495
Kansai Elec	2110	2050	2070	2110
Kao	1340	1310	1320	1330
Kawasaki Hvy	500	495	500	495
Kawa Steel	363	355	357	363
Kinki Nipp Ry	729	713	716	729
Kirin Brewery	985	955	955	985
Kobe Steel	223	219	220	220
Komatsu	894	871	879	884
Kubota	525	509	517	522
Kyocera	7480	7410	7450	7470
Kyushu Elec	2050	1990	2000	2050
LTCB	329	318	324	333
Marubeni	460	451	455	466
Marui	1770	1700	1700	1770
Matsu Comm	3170	3130	3150	3190
Matsu Elec Ind	1990	1970	1970	1980
Matsu Elec Wk	1210	1170	1180	1190
Mitsubishi	1080	1040	1050	1080
Mitsubishi Ch	375	364	364	368
Mitsubishi El	703	694	697	693
Mitsubishi Est	1400	1370	1370	1400
Mitsubishi Hvy	813	807	812	812
Mitsubishi Mat	914	903	912	910
Mitsubishi Tr	1120	1070	1070	1120
Mitsui	927	912	912	917
Mitsui Fudosn	1330	1290	1290	1310
Mitsui Trust	611	589	600	613
Murata Mfg	4730	4700	4700	4730
NEC	1520	1490	1500	1520
Nikon	1920	1830	1890	1860
Nikko Sec	611	590	600	601
Nintendo	9350	9160	9300	9150
Nipp Express	860	838	840	855
Nippon Oil	500	491	492	497
Nippon Steel	364	359	361	363
Nissan Motor	785	761	775	786
NKK	262	257	257	265
Nomura Sec	1230	1180	1190	1240
NTT	8830a	8720a	8750a	8710a
NTT Data	3500b	3430b	3460b	3510b
Oji Paper	584	572	572	587
Osaka Gas	288	282	286	289
Ricoh	1530	1500	1510	1510
Rohm	9800	9720	9720	9840
Sakura Bk	641	619	621	648
Sankyo	3500	3350	3400	3530
Sanwa Bank	1280	1230	1230	1290
Sanyo Elec	464	450	450	452
Secom	7230	7120	7230	7140
Seibu Rwy	5720	5650	5720	5680
Sekisui Chem	1140	1070	1100	1140
Sekisui House	1150	1130	1140	1150
Seven-Eleven	7750	7670	7700	7750
Sharp	1560	1540	1540	1500
Shikoku El Pwr	1940	1900	1920	1950
Shimizu	577	554	556	562
Shin-etsu Ch	2540	2500	2500	2550
Shiseido	1600	1570	1580	1590
Shizuoka Bk	1070	1040	1050	1070
Softbank	7650	7550	7580	7630
Sony	9160	9060	9100	9120
Sumitomo	865	835	836	868
Sumitomo Bk	1310	1250	1250	1320
Sumit Chem	503	493	493	499
Sumitomo Elec	1730	1710	1710	1730
Sumit Metal	295	285	288	295
Sumit Trust	912	872	872	913
Taisho Pharm	3170	3080	3160	3170
Takeda Chem	2790	2760	2790	2790
TDK	9160	9060	9110	9180
Tohoku El Pwr	1980	1940	1940	1970
Tokai Bank	916	860	889	926
Tokio Marine	1200	1180	1180	1220
Tokyo El Pwr	2170	2140	2170	2170
Tokyo Electron	4770	4710	4740	4770
Tokyo Gas	293	285	287	298
Tokyu Corp.	608	595	600	604
Tonen	1160	1130	1130	1160
Toppan Print	1530	1500	1500	1540
Toray Ind	735	718	730	724
Toshiba	724	713	715	707
Tostem	2630	2580	2600	2600
Toyo Trust	725	644	680	735
Toyota Motor	3460	3430	3440	3460
Yamanouchi	2610	2560	2570	2560

a: x 100; b: x 1,000

Toronto TSE Industrials: 5815.30 Previous: 5821.01

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Abitibi Price	20.10	19.90	19.90	19.95
Alberta Energy	29	28.15	28.70	28.15
Alcan Alum	44.60	43¼	43.45	44.40
Anderson Expl	15¼	15½	15.60	15.40
Bk Montreal	49.60	48.65	48.85	49.20
Bk Nova Scotia	52.50	51½	51.70	51.85
Barrick Gold	32¼	32.30	32½	32.45
BCE	63.85	63¼	63.55	63.35
BC Telecomm	29.70	29.05	29.30	29.05
Biochem Pharm	32.70	32.65	32.65	34½
Bombardier B	26.05	25¾	26	25.95
Brascan A	30.80	30.10	30.10	30.80
Bre-X Minerals	2.27	1.76	2.06	2.29
Cameco	51	50¾	50.85	50¾
CIBC	31.95	31¼	31.45	31.45
Cdn Natl Rail	49.85	49.30	49.30	49.40
Cdn Nat Res	32.60	32	32.40	32
Cdn Occid Pet	28¾	25¾	26.80	25.10
Cdn Pacific	33.70	32.90	33.20	33.30
Cominco	35¼	35	35.10	35
Dofasco	24.10	22.60	23.10	23.60
Domtar	10.10	10	10.10	10
Donohue A	24.95	24.65	24.85	24.85
Du Pont Cda A	31	31	31	31
Edper Group	22.55	22.40	22½	22.55
Euronev Mng	42.85	41.45	42	41½
Fairfax Finl	299.15	298	299.15	299½
Falconbridge	27.80	27.35	27.35	27.60
Fletcher Chall A	21.70	21½	21.45	21.55
Franco Nevada	69¾	69.20	69¾	69¾
Gulf Cda Res	10.20	9.85	9.95	9.85
Imperial Oil	62.80	62.30	62.70	62.30
Inco	43.60	42.60	43.45	43.60
IPL Energy	40	39.80	39.90	39.85
Laidlaw B	18.45	18.15	18¼	18.30
Loewen Group	40.60	40.15	40½	40.15
Macmill Bloe	18.85	18.40	18.70	18.70
Magna Intl A	71	69.70	70.15	70.10
Methanex	11.55	11.40	11.40	11½
Moore	27.30	26.90	27.05	27.20
Newbridge Net	41.65	41¼	41.30	41.40
Noranda Inc	28.20	27.60	27.95	28
Norcen Energy	30	29	29.40	29
Nthern Telecom	93.35	92.65	92¾	92½
Nova	11.10	11	11.05	11.10
Onex	23.65	23	23.65	23.10
Pancdn Petlm	56.15	56.15	56.15	56
Petro Cda	19½	19¼	19.30	19.30
Placer Dome	24.60	24.15	24.20	24.70
Poco Petlm	13.35	13.10	13.35	13¼
Potash Sask	105½	104½	104¾	105
Renaissance	40½	39.95	40	40
Rio Algom	32¼	32½	32.55	32.55
Rogers Cantel B	24	23.90	24	24
Seagram Co	53	52.30	52¾	52.30
Shell Cda A	54	53.85	53.85	52.95
Stone Consold	20	19.90	19.95	19.85
Suncor	60¼	59.95	60.05	59.95
Talisman Eny	41.30	40.20	40½	39¾
Teck B	28.40	27½	28	28½
Teleglobe	39.55	39	39½	39.10
Telus	20.60	20.40	20.45	20¼
Thomson	27½	27	27	27.20
TorDom Bank	34.65	34.40	34.55	34.30
Transalta	16.10	15.95	16	16
TransCda Pipe	25.40	25.05	25.40	25.15
Trimark Finl	41.90	41½	41.80	41.90
Trizec Hahn	31.60	31.30	31½	31.45
TVX Gold	9.70	9½	9.65	9.45
Westcoast Eny	24¼	24	24.15	24
Weston	68.55	67¼	68.55	67½

Vienna ATX index: 1186.74 Previous: 1184.13

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Boehler-Uddeh	824.50	813	816	815.30
Creditanst Pfd	461.90	456.80	456.80	457
EA-Generali	3199	3150	3190	3190
EVN	1658	1640	1645	1668
Flughafen Wien	527.20	522	524.50	523
OMV	1340.10	1315.10	1323.30	1328
Oest Elektriz	842.50	838	840.10	842.50
VA Stahl	469	464.65	465.10	467.50
VA Tech	1738.50	1709	1733	1701.10
Wienerberg Bau	2171	2134	2170	2174

Wellington NZSE-40 index: 2220.70 Previous: 2224.62

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Air NZeald B	3.98	3.96	3.96	3.96
Brierly Invt	1.29	1.27	1.28	1.28
Carter Holt ord	3.10	3.08	3.09	3.09
Fletch Ch Bldg	4.22	4.19	4.20	4.22
Fletch Ch Eny	3.94	3.88	3.88	3.93
Fletch Ch Forst	1.88	1.86	1.87	1.86
Fletch Ch Paper	2.83	2.82	2.82	2.84
Lion Nathan	3.42	3.38	3.39	3.40
Telecom NZ	6.59	6.48	6.50	6.55
Wilson Horton	11.54	11.54	11.54	11.68

Zurich SPI index: 2929.78 Previous: 2898.96

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
ABB B	1731	1700	1731	1701
Adecco B	470	457	469.50	456
Alusuisse R	1180	1164	1173	1160
Ares-Serono B	1895	1845	1845	1840
Atel R	895	868	895	910
Baer Hdg B	1709	1695	1709	1693
Baloise Hdg R	2950	2860	2880	2860
BK Vision	845	838	843	840
Clariant R	773	752	765	752
Crd Suisse Gp R	168.75	167.25	168.25	165
Elektrowatt B	534	532	534	536
Ems-Chemie	5940	5870	5930	5845
ESEC Hdg	3980	3900	3930	3900
Holderbank B	1110	1100	1106	1097
Liechtenst LB B	474	472	474	471
Nestle R	1715	1706	1709	1696
Novartis R	1783	1761	1773	1755
Oerlikn Buehl R	144.25	141.50	143	140.50
Pargesa Hld B	1670	1650	1651	1650
PharmVisn B	733	720	726	712
Richemont A	1899	1880	1895	1895
Pirelli PC	225	219	225	220
Roche Hdg PC	12325	12190	12320	12150
SBC R	300.50	297.50	299	298
Schindler PC	1730	1715	1715	1717
SGS B	3085	3025	3065	3008
SMH B	820	811	811	807
Sulzer R	950	940	949	940
Swiss Reins R	1529	1506	1527	1506
Swissair R	1325	1316	1322	1330
UBS B	1280	1252	1271	1258
Winterthur R	1053	1018	1049	1001
Zurich Assur R	458.50	445.50	448.50	444

The Trib Index

Prices as of 3:00 P.M. New York time.

Jan. 1, 1992 = 100.	Level	Change	% change	year to date % change
World Index	151.70	+1.15	+0.76	+15.04
Regional Indexes				
Asia/Pacific	110.77	-0.19	-0.17	-17.50
Europe	160.79	+2.26	+1.43	+15.53
N. America	175.96	+1.42	+0.81	+37.17
S. America	138.61	-0.90	-0.65	+56.67
Industrial Indexes				
Capital goods	175.76	+2.94	+1.70	+32.27
Consumer goods	170.28	+1.06	+0.63	+23.33
Energy	183.06	+2.94	+1.63	+34.98
Finance	112.93	+0.31	+0.28	-11.24
Miscellaneous	156.63	+1.06	+0.68	+15.33
Raw Materials	182.19	+1.28	+0.71	+28.48
Service	142.74	+0.81	+0.57	+18.95
Utilities	132.97	-0.42	-0.31	+4.59

The International Herald Tribune World Stock Index © tracks the U.S. dollar values of 280 internationally investable stocks from 25 countries. For more information, a free booklet is available by writing to The Trib Index, 181 Avenue Charles de Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly Cedex, France. *Compiled by Bloomberg News.*

NYSE

Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close

Nationwide prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.
The Associated Press.

Continued on Page 16

ASIA/PACIFIC

Use Trade Clout, Asia Is Urged

Bloomberg News

SHANGHAI — Asia must use its growing economic influence to make international trade rules work to its advantage, Malaysia's international trade minister said Wednesday.

Rafidah Aziz said Asia was now the common economic denominator in the global economic equation. Certainly, Asia should exploit optimally her new position."

Trade is already a growing area of disagreement between the United States and many Asian countries. The U.S. Treasury secretary, Robert Rubin, has warned several Asian countries about their expanding trade surpluses.

Mrs. Aziz accused the United States and the European Union of "trade harassment" in enacting anti-dumping measures to help industries that could not compete with Asian businesses.

"Asia's trading partners must accept the fact that Asian-owned and Asian-based enterprises and industries have caught up with those in the EU and U.S. and can compete successfully," she said.

"Asian competitive advantages cannot be held against Asia, nor should the Asian economies and enterprises be penalized for being more efficient."

China's prime minister, Li Peng, said Asia had to go its own way as its economies developed. Asian countries are "actively exploring their own development paths and formulating their own development strategies," he said. "They stand for learning from each other and drawing on each other's strength to make up for one's own deficiencies."

Canberra Keeps Bank Curb

Reform Plan Puts Off Mergers Among Top 4 Firms

CANBERRA — The government announced the country's biggest financial-reform package since 1983 on Wednesday but stopped short of allowing mergers among the country's four biggest banks.

The measures remove a blanket ban on foreign takeovers of banks and allow banks to merge with life-insurance companies.

But Peter Costello, Australia's treasurer, said mergers among the country's four biggest banks would not be permitted "for the time being." He also said the government would retain the power to veto mergers in the financial sector.

"The policy will be reviewed when the government is satisfied that competition from new and established participants in the financial industry, particularly in respect to small-business lending, has increased sufficiently to allow such mergers to be considered," Mr. Costello said.

He also warned foreigners that they would not be allowed to buy too big a share of Australia's banking sector and said each application would be examined individually.

"It can move off zero, but we won't allow it to go to substantial foreign ownership," Mr. Costello said of foreign investment in banking companies. "We certainly would not allow it to go as high as foreign ownership in the print media." Foreign investors can hold as much as 25 percent of media companies under certain conditions.

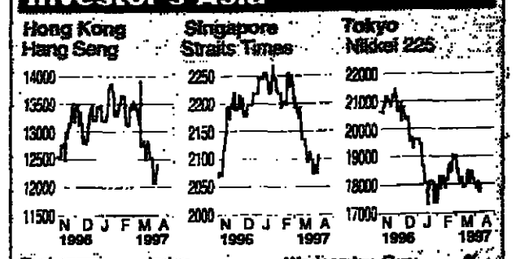
The government's changes were prompted by a report known as the Wallis Financial System Inquiry. The changes abolish the so-called "six pillars" policy, which prevented mergers among Australia's four major banks and two largest pension and life-insurance companies. The four banks are Westpac Banking Corp., Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd., National Australia Bank Ltd. and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. The life insurers are Australian Mutual Provident Society and National Mutual Holdings Ltd.

Analysts welcomed the government's steps but said the continued bar to mergers among the big banks, even if temporary, would disappoint those who had built takeover premiums into share prices of Westpac and ANZ, viewed as the most likely takeover targets.

Westpac's shares closed at 6.67 dollars ($5.21), down 0.20; ANZ fell 0.11 to 8.00.

(Reuters, AFX)

Investor's Asia



Exchange	Index	Wednesday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	12,426.88	12,398.57	+0.23
Singapore	Straits Times	2,103.20	2,104.71	-0.07
Sydney	All Ordinaries	2,289.20	2,288.90	+0.01
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	17,703.37	18,021.70	-1.77
Kuala Lumpur	Composite	1,183.85	1,182.25	+0.14
Bangkok	SET	712.63	715.36	-0.38
Seoul	Composite Index	698.56	694.97	+0.52
Taipei	Stock Market Index	8,555.82	8,460.63	+2.31
Manila	PSE	Closed	2,905.30	
Jakarta	Composite Index	Closed	638.22	
Wellington	NZSE-40	2,220.70	2,224.62	-0.18
Bombay	Sensitive Index	3,650.88	3,520.49	+3.70

Source: Telekurs — International Herald Tribune

China Banks on New Bonds

Bloomberg News

HONG KONG — China is headed for its biggest round of international bond sales in three years as it steps up spending on roads, power plants and industry, brokerage-company executives said Wednesday.

The government and banks plan to sell as much as $3.1 billion of notes and bonds this year, more than six times what they sold in 1996. Beijing, satisfied that inflation is under control after a three-year austerity program, is allowing more funds to be raised abroad to fuel growth.

Like Thailand, India and others once shut out of international markets, China is turning to bonds to raise the billions of dollars it will need as its economy develops.

China may pay less for its money than some other emerging-market countries because investors are starved for Chinese bonds and eager to bet on an economy that is growing 10 percent a year.

Other Asian borrowers also look riskier than China these days. Thailand and South Korea are being plagued by bankruptcies, while Indonesia is heading into parliamentary elections, leaving its future government in doubt.

Very briefly:

• **Nomura Securities Co.**'s president, Masashi Suzuki, said the scandal involving suspected illegal deals at Nomura would have a "severe" impact on earnings, though the company could not make a specific estimate of the impact until it knew "whether and how much administrative punishment will be imposed."

• **Taiwan**'s share prices rose to almost a seven-year high. The Taiwan Stock Exchange index rose 195.19 points, to 8,655.82, its highest close since May 9, 1990, but analysts warned of escalating risks in the speculative market.

• **South Korea**'s sales of imported cars rose 40 percent in March from a year earlier, to 952 vehicles, despite an overall slowdown in the market, the Korea Automotive Importers and Distributors' Association said.

• **Standard & Poor's Corp.** said restructuring in Japan's financial sector appeared to be gaining momentum after **Nippon Credit Bank Ltd.** and **Hokkaido Takushoku Bank Ltd.** announced reorganization plans last week.

• **China Aerospace Corp.** and **Digital Equipment Corp.** of the United States signed a memorandum of understanding to make network computers in China, the China Daily reported. The two companies are expected to sign a contract for the $40 million project in June or July, with China Aerospace contributing at least half the investment, the newspaper said.

• **China and Vietnam** concluded their first day of talks on a territorial dispute in the oil-rich South China Sea, Chinese Foreign Ministry sources said.

• **Asia** accounted for 16.5 percent of last year's operating income of 3.83 billion French francs ($663.9 million) at the international and finance division of **Societe Generale SA**, France's biggest commercial-banking concern; the unit, one of the banking company's three divisions, posted a 30 percent increase in operating income from Asia, to 632 million francs.

• **Toyota Motor Corp.**, Japan's largest carmaker, is considering building a power station in central Japan to supply Toyota companies with electricity.

• **Shinawatra Satellite PCL** said Thailand's third communication satellite would be launched next Thursday, five days after its originally planned launch date, by Arianespace.

• **Japan**'s domestic shipments of color televisions and videocassette recorders rose 15 percent, to 805,000 units, in February as shoppers rushed to buy electronic goods before the consumption tax was raised April 1.

• **Negotiations for China**'s entry into the World Trade Organization will take several years, the U.S. deputy trade representative Jeffrey Lang said. *Reuters, AFP, Bloomberg*

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

which will be held at 26, route d'Arlon, Luxembourg on April 18, 1997 at 10.30 a.m. with the following agenda:

AGENDA:

1. Reports of the Board of Directors and Auditors.
2. Approval of the financial statements as of December 31, 1996.
3. Decision on allocation of net profits.
4. Discharge of the Directors and of the Auditors in respect of the carrying out of their duties during the fiscal year ended December 31, 1996.
5. Reelection of the Board Members.
6. Election of a new Auditor.
7. Miscellaneous business.

NOTES:

Holders of bearer shares may vote at the Meeting:

- in person by producing at the Meeting either share certificates or a certificate of deposit issued by their bank which will be issued to them against deposit of their share certificates,
- by proxy by completing the form of proxy which will be made available to them against deposit of share certificates aforesaid.

Share certificates so deposited will be retained until the Meeting or any adjournment thereof has been concluded.

The Board of Directors

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Personals

MAY THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred heart of Jesus, pray for us. Saint Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. *Saint Jude helper of the hopeless, pray* for us. Amen. Thank you. B.

THANK YOU SACRED HEART of Jesus and St. Jude, worker of miracles, for prayers answered. D.W.

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GO: 0,5229 FOD: 0,3476

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ZONE II - I :
GO: 1,03 SCSP: 1,39
ZONE III - F :
GO: 1,03 SCSP: 1,37
ZONE IV - F :
SCSP: 1,37
ZONE IV - G :
GO: 1,04 FOD: 0,61

BELGIQUE en FBI - TVA 21%
GO: 22,07 FOD: 10,48
SCSP: 32,98 SCSP: 30,91

HOLLANDE (zone2) NLGI - TVA 17,5%
GO: 1,231 FOD: 0,773
SCSP: 1,770 SCSP: 1,728

LUXEMBOURG en LUFI - TVA 15%
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Wednesday's 4 P.M.

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NYSE

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(Continued)

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Bangladesh Wins And Violence Erupts

CRICKET At least one man was killed and more than 100 injured in violence set off by Bangladeshi cricket fans in Dhaka celebrating the national team's semifinal win over Scotland on Wednesday in the International Cricket Conference Trophy tournament in Malaysia.

The police said an unidentified man was fatally stabbed after he angered fans by spraying colored water on them. More than 100 people were hurt in a series of firecracker explosions and clashes between revelers and protesters in Dhaka and the port city of Chittagong, the police said.

Win or lose in Saturday's tournament final against Kenya, Wednesday's 72-run defeat of Scotland assured Bangladesh of a place in the 1999 World Cup in England, the first time the team has attained such heights. *(Reuters)*

• In Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan pulled off a 32-run victory Wednesday over Zimbabwe to enter the final of the three-nation Singer Akai cup. The Pakistanis, who scored a modest 151 for 9 in their innings, dismissed Zimbabwe for 119 in 40.1 overs. Pakistan is to meet Sri Lanka in Friday's final. *(AP)*

Mesa Acquitted of Rape

BASEBALL Jose Mesa, the Cleveland Indians' star pitcher, was acquitted Wednesday of all charges in a rape trial.

Mesa, one of baseball's top relievers, had been charged with one count of rape, two counts of gross sexual imposition and one count of theft in complaints filed by two women. The jury of seven women and five men deliberated for about nine hours before reaching the verdicts in Cleveland.

Mesa, 30, had faced up to 13½ years in prison if convicted on all charges. A citizen of the Dominican Republic, he also could have faced deportation hearings if convicted of any of them. A weapons charge against Mesa was to be tried later, and it was not clear when he would return to the team. *(AP)*

Victory for Inter Milan

UEFA CUP SOCCER Inter Milan took a big step toward its third UEFA Cup title in seven seasons with a 3-1 victory at home over Monaco in its first-leg, semifinal match on Tuesday night.

Maurizio Ganz, the Italian striker, scored twice for Inter in the first half and Ivan Zamorano, the Chilean striker, got the other against the French league leaders, also in the first half. Inter faded in the second half and allowed one goal — a 70th minute strike from the Nigerian Victor Ikpeba. *(AP)*

• In a battle of penalty shots, Tenerife escaped with a 1-0 victory over Schalke 04 of Germany in their first-leg semifinal UEFA Cup match in the Canary Islands.

Schalke had a chance to bring the game to a draw late in the second half, but a penalty shot by the Dutch defender Johan De Kock swept out to the left of the Tenerife net.

A Tenerife midfielder, Felipe Minambres, scored from the penalty spot in the fifth minute. *(AP)*

Norman Learns to Forget 1996

On Eve of Masters, Guru Helps Golfer Think Positively

By Larry Dorman
New York Times Service

AUGUSTA, Georgia — Greg Norman was sitting at a dais in Augusta, his face serene, his shoulders squared. A year after a Masters defeat so ghastly it has been called the worst collapse in major championship golf history, Norman was wearing an almost beatific expression.

Collapse? What collapse? Memories? What memories?

"I'll just think about the good things I've done here," Norman said Tuesday. "I'll think about the 63s I've shot here and the 64s I've shot here. If you keep thinking about the worst round you've ever had in your life, you're going to keep on playing that same round."

Freshly inspired after a one-on-one session with the motivational guru Tony Robbins, Norman claims to have expunged the memories of the final-round 78 that turned a six-stroke lead into a five-stroke defeat at the very cold hands of Nick Faldo, who shot 67. If Norman were to somehow manage to actually do that, and come back and play well here this week — possibly even contend — it would underscore once again just how resilient he is and perhaps alter the way he is remembered.

"Let's face it," Norman said earlier this season, "I'm not the only one who's ever blown a lead. I screwed up badly, but it's happened before and it will happen again, to me or to someone else. That's the nature of the game."

It has happened before, and many times. Major championship golf is rife with example after example of players failing to close the deal. Each in their own way have been poignant.

. Was Norman's final-round 78 any more gruesome than the 81 suffered by third-round leader Gil Morgan in the 1992 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach? Was it more painful to watch than, say, Arnold Palmer, blowing a seven-stroke lead with nine holes to play in the 1966 U.S. Open at Olympic Club? How about the time Ben Hogan shared the 54-hole lead in the 1952 Masters with Sam Snead and shot 79 to tie for seventh?

For excruciating collapses, wasn't Hale Irwin's 79 in the final round of the 1984 U.S. Open at Winged Foot — the same Open, coincidentally, in which Norman fought his way into a tie with Fuzzy Zoeller only to be dusted by seven strokes in the playoff (68 to 75) — at least comparable?

Irwin, who was burdened by the serious illness of his father at the time, completely lost his game that Sunday. His iron play was abysmal. He hit just over half the greens in regulation. Here he was, a two-time U.S. Open champion with 16 victories on the PGA Tour, and he collapsed like papier-mâché.

"This is something that will either make me stronger or weaker, Irwin said, right after slamming his locker shut at Winged Foot.

Decide for yourself. Irwin, who was 39 at the time, won four more tournaments, including the 1990 U.S. Open at Medinah.

Because the stakes are so much higher, the audiences so much larger and the pressure so much greater, collapses in major championships happen more often. Jack Nicklaus is the exception to this rule, just as he is to most others. Of the 10 times Nicklaus either led or shared the lead after 54 holes in a major, he won nine. Norman's record is one of seven.

None of which seems to faze him. Norman has appeared on three television specials leading up to the Masters, and with each successive appearance — first on "60 Minutes," then on ESPN with Jimmy Roberts and then on the Golf Channel — he has seemed more quietly determined to walk into the velvet vise that is Augusta and prevail.

"Going back to Augusta," he said on the Golf Channel, "will be the challenge of my life."

And it will be. This place, more than any other course where major championships are played, can suffocate the leaders. The holes down in the hollow where Amen Corner sits are close together, and the roars and moans reverberate off the sides of hills and bounce off the pine trees.

The effect can be extremely unnerving. "It's hard to ignore it," Norman said. The ghosts of many Masters leaders past, particularly those who couldn't ignore it, stand in testimony to that. The shakiest Masters finish of all might still be Ed Sneed's. Up by two strokes at the turn in 1979, Sneed finished bogey-bogey-bogey and lost in a three-way playoff to Zoeller.

Then there was Curtis Strange, who led Bernhard Langer by four strokes at the turn in 1985. Strange hit balls in the water at the 13th and 15th holes, shot 39 and lost by two strokes.

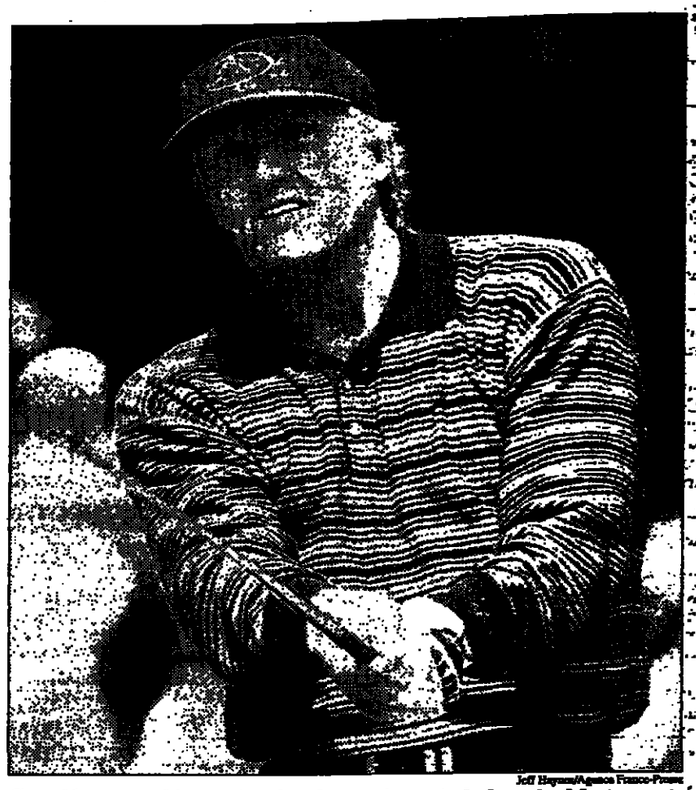
In a telling display of his obstinacy, Strange told the former U.S. Golf Association executive director, Frank Hannigan, shortly afterward that he would "play the holes exactly the same way again."

"And you'd lose the damn tournament again," Hannigan replied.

Norman has no plans to play the same way; after all, he went down in a horrifying slow-motion death that was evocative of an old Sam Peckinpah film. Whether he will lose the tournament again, who knows? All he wants is the opportunity, whether it's against Faldo or Tiger Woods or anyone else in the field.

"I don't care who I face," he said. "I just want to be in that position again. And I think I've got a very good chance to be in that position. And I think I can."

If he can, it won't erase what happened here last year. But it might make it a lot easier for Norman to live with the memory.



Jeff Haynes/Agence France-Presse

Greg Norman taking a practice shot at Augusta before the Masters gets under way Thursday. Last year, he blew a 6-stroke lead in the final round.

Griffey Blasts 6th Homer to Lift Mariners

The Associated Press

Ken Griffey Jr. hit his sixth home run and drove in four runs, and Jay Buhner broke out of a season-opening slump with his first homer and four runs batted in as the Seattle Mariners bombed the Cleveland Indians, 14-8, in Seattle.

AL ROUNDUP

Sandy Alomar tied an Indians record by homering in his fifth successive game on Tuesday night. He tied a career-high with four hits and drove in four runs.

The Mariners' manager, Lou Piniella, frustrated by his team's 2-4 start, was ejected by plate umpire Derryl Cousins in the second inning. He then went on a five-minute dirt-kicking, chalk-raising tirade at home plate that delighted the Kingdome crowd of 24,348 and brought a smile to the face of Griffey in center.

Cousins ousted Piniella for a comment he made while talking to the Seattle starter, Dennis Martinez, on the mound with the Indians ahead, 5-4.

Griffey, who leads the American League in homers, went 3 for 5 and Buhner was 3 for 4. Albie Lopez (0-1) was the loser while Edwin Hurtado (1-0) picked up the victory.

Red Sox 13, Athletics 7 In Oakland, California, Reggie Jefferson's second homer ignited a seven-run seventh inning that Darren Bragg capped with a grand slam.

Bragg, who had an RBI single earlier, finished with a career-high five runs batted in and Jefferson hit a pair of two-run homers.

Jose Canseco had four hits for Oakland, including a homer and two doubles. But with the bases loaded and two outs in the sixth, Rick Trlicek (2-1) came on and got him to pop out. Canseco was the only batter Trlicek faced in picking up the victory.

Boston trailed, 6-4, when Mo Vaughn singled to open the seventh and Jefferson connected off Don Wengert. Tim Naehring scored later on a wild pitch to make it 7-6 before the Red Sox loaded the bases for Bragg, who hit his second career grand slam.

Angels 10, Yankees 9 Gary DiSarcina got an infield hit with one out in the bottom of the 12th inning, lifting Anaheim over visiting New York.

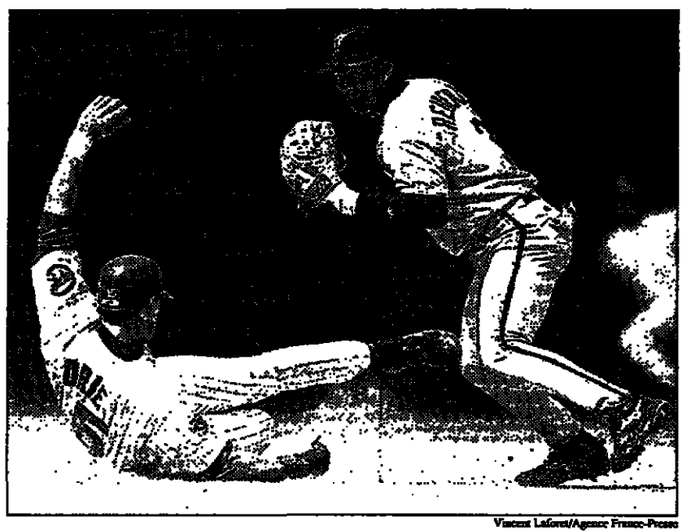
The Angels, who tied it at 9 on Jack Howell's pinch-hit sacrifice fly in the ninth off Mariano Rivera, ended a three-game losing streak.

Edmonds sliced a double off Jeff Nelson (0-2), the sixth Yankees pitcher, to start the 12th. Jim Leyritz, a former Yankee who hit a two-run homer earlier, sacrificed Edmonds to third.

Intentional walks to Garret Anderson and Orlando Palmeiro loaded the bases. DiSarcina hit the first pitch from Nelson up the middle, and Pat Kelly, the second baseman, backhanded the two-hopper.

Kelly flipped to shortstop Derek Jeter, but Palmeiro beat the throw. Jeter made a relay, just in case Palmeiro had been called out, and DiSarcina was safe.

Blue Jays at White Sox Postponed by cold weather.



Vincent Laforet/Agence France-Presse

Edgar Renteria of the Marlins preparing to throw to first base after forcing out Kevin Orie of the Cubs at second. The Marlins won, 5-3.

Woeful Start for the Cubs

Shades of '62, as Marlins Send Chicago to 0-7

The Associated Press

The winless Chicago Cubs matched the worst start in their 122-year history as the Florida Marlins used Charles Johnson's two-run seventh-inning double to win, 5-3, and go five games over .500 (6-1) for the first time ever.

The loss in the home opener Tuesday dropped the Cubs to 0-7, equaling the start of the 1962 team. Al Leiter (2-0) allowed five hits and three runs in six innings. Gary Sheffield hit his first homer of the season, and doubled and scored as the Marlins won their first road game. They were 28-53 away from Florida last season.

NL ROUNDUP

Braves 4, Astros 2 Tom Glavine pitched seven shutout innings to beat Houston for the second time in five days, and Jeff Blauser went 4-for-4 as host Atlanta won its fifth straight.

Kenny Lofton and Chipper Jones had two RBIs apiece for the Braves.

Glavine (2-0) struck out four and walked two in his 300th career start. The left-hander stranded two runners in the second, third and fifth innings as the Braves improved to 4-0 at Turner Field.

Mark Wohlers pitched the ninth for his third save.

Blauser had two doubles and two singles and has had a hit in eight consecutive at-bats, two shy of the NL and franchise records. He also scored three runs and is batting .542 (13-for-24) this season.

Cardinals 2, Expos 1 Willie McGee's pinch-hit, solo home run with two outs in the ninth inning ended St. Louis's worst start in their 106-year history.

The Cardinals' 0-6 start included a three-game, season-opening sweep at Montreal. A crowd of 47,542 saw the NL Central champions win their home opener and send the Expos to their fourth straight loss.

McGee connected off Ugueth Urbina for his 74th home run in his 16th major league season.

Urbina (1-1) got out of a bases-loaded situation in the eighth.

After Ron Gant tripled off Dave Veres, Urbina walked Brian Jordan and John Mabry with two outs but then struck out Gary Gaetti on three pitches.

Reliever Mark Petkovsek (1-1) allowed two hits and struck out three in four scoreless innings for St. Louis.

Mets 5, Dodgers 3 Bobby Jones pitched eight innings for his second victory and John Olerud went 4-for-4 for visiting New York.

Jones (2-0) allowed three runs and five hits before leaving for a pinch-hitter in the eighth. The right-hander's 127-pitch outing helped the Mets win their third game this season in two hours, 37 minutes, following their five-hour, 15-inning loss Monday night.

Greg McMichael, acquired in the off-season from Atlanta, pitched the ninth for his first save.

Bernard Gilkey and Todd Hundley each drove in two runs for the Mets, who built a lead 4-1 after three innings against Ismael Valdes (1-1).

Phillies 2, Giants 1 Mark Leiter allowed three hits in seven innings and rookie Scott Rolen singled home the go-ahead run for visiting Philadelphia.

Leiter (1-1), formerly with the Giants, gave up an unearned run, walked three and struck out two.

Ricky Bottalico pitched 1⅓ innings for his third save, striking out three. He has saved all three Phillies' wins so far this season. With the scored tied at 1, the Phillies took the lead in the seventh with an unearned run off Osvaldo Fernandez.

Pirates 2, Padres 0 Steve Cooke combined with two relievers on a one-hitter, earning his first victory in nearly three years.

Steve Finley cleanly singled to right field with two outs in the first inning for San Diego's lone hit. Cooke (1-1) befuddled the host Padres for seven innings with his curveball and changeup.

Tony Womack broke the scoreless tie with a two-out, two-run triple in the eighth.

Cooke faced only three batters over the minimum. He retired his last 12 batters and 19 of 20. He struck out three and walked one.

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SPORTS

On the Fast Track, at 50

Record-Breaking Sprinter, a New Student, Prepares to Compete on College Varsity

By Marc Bloom
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The most versatile track-and-field athlete in the world is not the Olympic decathlon champion Dan O'Brien or the elite long jumper and pentathlete Jackie Joyner-Kersee, but a 50-year-old accountant from the Atlanta area who hates to train, lacks confidence, worries about cellulite and regularly defeats opponents half her age.

But Philippa Raschker, who has set more than 100 world records for her age in an array of events, may finally find some good competition.

She has begun classes as a full-time student at Life University in Marietta, Georgia, and she expects to receive clearance soon from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics to compete as a freshman on the women's track team.

Raschker, who lives in Marietta, has received an athletic scholarship and is taking business courses.

"The opportunity to go up against younger athletes is very exciting," said Raschker, who competes in everything from the sprints and hurdles to field events and the heptathlon. "I'll finally get pushed."

Raschker, a native German who turned 50 on Feb. 21 and had never attended college, would probably be the oldest person to compete on a college varsity team in any sport.

There are no official records on the oldest college athletes, but changes in attitudes toward aging have led to more midlife members of college teams.

With her eligibility imminent, Raschker's first college meet could be the Sea Ray Classic on Saturday in Knoxville, Tennessee, where she would compete in the pole vault, the heptathlon and the relays.

Regardless of her college status, Raschker is scheduled to compete in the Penn Relays on April 24-26 in Philadelphia. She plans to run the 100 meters for sprinters 40 and older and is entered in the open pole vault.

"She's phenomenal," said Mike Spino, the Life University track coach. "You don't think of Philippa as 50. She competes like a 20-year-old collegian."

Life University has an enrollment of 4,500, including the nine members of the women's track team. Spino said that at this season's NAIA championships in late May, Raschker could make the top three in the heptathlon and win the pole vault, still a relatively new event for women, enabling Life to become a contender for national team honors.

Even as opportunities for female athletes have flourished, Raschker, who is 5 feet 4 inches and 115 pounds, has defied conventional views of gender and aging.

Women in their 50s have recently shown endurance in events such as the 10-kilometer (6.2 miles) and the marathon, but it is unusual for someone at 50 to sustain the excellence in the sprints and jumps that Raschker has. These events are usually the domain of powerful, young bodies.

Last year, at 49, Raschker ran the 100 meters in 12.42, a time that would put her in the finals at most college meets. Then, she celebrated her 50th birthday in February by going to a masters indoor meet in Birmingham, England.

She won the seven events she entered, setting seven women's world records for her age group. Raschker's time in the 200 meters, her best event, was an astonishing 26.52 seconds. She broke the previous world age mark by 2.41 seconds, a tour de force not unlike Michael Johnson's 19.32 in the 200 at the Olympic Games last summer.

Raschker can run close to 25 seconds for the 200 on an outdoor track. In fact, she is faster than any of the girls on the track team at Atlanta's St. Pius High School, which she coaches. "Unfortunately," Raschker noted dryly, "I can also beat most of our boys."

She can still top 11 feet in the pole vault, good enough to rank with the best U.S. women of any age. When competing against young vaulters, as she will later this month, Raschker is regarded with awe.

"The athletes tell me I'm old enough to be their grandmother," Raschker said. "They can't believe what I can accomplish at this age."

This summer, at the biennial World Masters Track and Field Championships, in Durban, South Africa, Raschker will take on people her own age. She will compete in the 100, 200, 400, high hurdles, intermediate hurdles, high jump, shotput, triple jump and pole vault. All that will come after she completes the seven-event heptathlon, which includes the climactic 800 meters.

Masters track and field, which has been in the forefront of providing opportunities for women with events such as the pole vault and triple jump, structures competition in five-year age groups beginning with age 40. Raschker has won 27 world masters titles, not counting relays, in the 40-44 and 45-49 divisions, and in Durban she will make her world championship debut in the 50-54 bracket.

Raschker will be joined in Durban by her longtime companion and coach, Phil Mulkey, a 1960 U.S. Olympian in the decathlon. Mulkey, 64, is a world masters champion himself in the decathlon, pole vault and hurdles.

"One time at an all-comers meet we anchored opposing teams in a mile relay," Mulkey said. "She blew me away."

Raschker's longevity can be explained, in part, by her late arrival in athletics. She participated in track and swimming as a youth in Hamburg, but when she came to the United States in 1967, she dropped sports.

Still fresh and eager by the time she resumed track and field at age 33 in 1980, Raschker won her first races.

She has captured more than 100 U.S. national masters indoor and outdoor titles. In typical dominance at the 1997 masters indoor nationals in Boston in late March, Raschker won eight events despite limited training because of the tax season.

"My accounting work takes 60 to 70 hours a week," she said. "Coaching teenagers is also very draining. I barely have the energy to work out."

Alan S. Weiner/The New York Times

Philippa Raschker being coached by Phil Mulkey at a track in Georgia.

Mourning Fuels Heat

The Associated Press

Alonzo Mourning had 35 points and 18 rebounds as the Miami Heat rallied from a 20-point first-half deficit to beat the New Jersey Nets, 94-92.

Tim Hardaway added 26 points Tuesday night as visiting Miami staged its biggest comeback of the season in winning its fifth in a row. The victory, combined with the New York Knicks' loss to Cleveland, reduced Miami's magic number for clinching the Atlantic Division to two.

NBA ROUNDUP

Cavaliers 93, Knicks 73 Terrell Brandon scored 25 points, Chris Mills and Danny Ferry had 21 each and the visiting Cavaliers pulled into a tie with Washington for the eighth playoff spot in the East. Brandon also had 11 assists and outscored both of New York's point guards, 25-0.

Raptors 100, Bullets 94 Damon Stoudamire scored 29 points as Toronto slowed Washington's playoff drive. Stoudamire added a game-high 13 assists. Calbert Cheaney and Chris Webber had 21 points each for the visiting Bullets.

Spurs 96, Nuggets 90 Monty Williams scored a career-high 30 points as San Antonio limited visiting Denver to 35 second-half points. Williams added a career-high 10 rebounds.

Magic 97, Bucks 82 In Milwaukee, Penny Hardaway scored 30 points, including seven in a 13-0 second-half run for Orlando.

Mavericks 87, Trail Blazers 82 Sasha Danilovic scored eight of his 22 points during a key fourth-quarter run as the host Mavericks ended an 11-game losing streak.

Suns 115, Timberwolves 107 Kevin Johnson and Wesley Person scored 23 points each, and the host Suns qualified for the playoffs for the ninth straight season.

Lakers 109, Warriors 85 Kobe Bryant had a career-high 24 points, and Sean Rooks added 20 as the visiting Lakers eliminated the Warriors from playoff contention.

Kings 108, Grizzlies 93 Corliss Williamson and Brian Grant scored the Kings' first 17 points of the third period, powering a 19-8 run. Williamson scored 12 points in the third quarter and a season-high 24 for the game. Grant scored 19 points, one shy of his season high.

Rockets 127, Clippers 117 Charles Barkley had 35 points, eight rebounds and seven assists — his best outing since returning from a hip injury four games ago.

Lemieux Slaps but Can't Hit

The Associated Press

Mario Lemieux took a flurry of shots but couldn't score in his final regular-season home game as the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the visiting Boston Bruins, 3-1. Lemieux, who formally announced his retirement last weekend, put on a big show Tuesday night but missed all his 11 shots — six in a second period that saw him take all but four of the Penguins' 10 shots.

NHL ROUNDUP

Devils 2, Lightning 2 In Tampa, Martin Brodeur's shutout streak ended at three games, but New Jersey extended its lead in the Eastern Conference race to two points. Jason Wiemer scored at 11:43 of the second period to end Brodeur's career-best run at 213 minutes, 52 seconds. His best previous streak was 189:58, earlier this season.

Red Wings 3, Flames 2 Tomas Sandstrom scored with nine seconds left in overtime to give Detroit a victory over host Calgary, pushing the Flames to the brink of playoff elimination.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

Major League Standings

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	4	2	.667	—
Boston	4	3	.571	½
Detroit	3	4	.429	1½
New York	3	4	.429	1½
Toronto	2	3	.400	1½
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Milwaukee	3	2	.600	—
Cleveland	4	3	.571	—
Minnesota	4	3	.571	—
Kansas City	3	3	.500	½
Chicago	2	3	.400	1
WEST DIVISION				
Oakland	4	3	.571	—
Anaheim	3	4	.429	1
Seattle	3	4	.429	1
Texas	2	3	.400	1

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION	W	L	Pct.	GB
Florida	6	1	.857	—
Atlanta	5	2	.714	1
Montreal	3	4	.429	3
New York	3	5	.375	3½
Philadelphia	3	5	.375	3½
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Houston	5	2	.714	—
Cincinnati	3	4	.429	2
Pittsburgh	3	4	.429	2
St. Louis	1	6	.143	4
Chicago	0	7	.000	5
WEST DIVISION				
Colorado	5	2	.714	—
Los Angeles	5	3	.625	½
San Diego	5	3	.625	½
San Francisco	4	3	.571	1

TUESDAY'S LINE SCORES

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Boston 103 000 726—13 17 2
Oakland 402 000 001—7 12 0
Wakefield, Hammond (3), Trlicek (6), B. Henry (7) and Haselmann; W.Adams, Wengert (4), R. Lewis (7), Groom (7), Acre (8) and Go.Williams. W—Trlicek, 2-1. L—Wengert, 0-2. S—B. Henry (2). HRs—Boston, Bragg (3), Jefferson 2 (2). Oakland, Conseco (2).

Cleveland 410 000 000—5 10 0
Seattle 400 440 20x—14 17 2
Hershiser, A. Lopez (4), Shuey (7), M. Jackson (9) and S. Alomar; Martinez, Horiuchi (5), Mozzanitto (7), Ayala (8) and Da.Wilson. W—Hurtado, 1-0. L—A. Lopez, 0-1. HRs—Cleveland, S. Alomar (5), Gilkeson (1). Seattle, Griffey (6), E. Martinez (3), Buhner (1).

New York 102 211 200 000—9 19 0
Anaheim 032 002 001 001—10 14 2
Rogers, Weathers (6), Stanton (6), Boehringer (7), Rivera (9), Nelson (11) and Girardi; Dickson, Hasegawa (5), McElroy (7), Hanks (9), James (11) and Layritz. W—James, 1-0. L—Nelson, 0-2. HRs—New York, O'Neill (2), Boggs (1). Anaheim, Layritz (1), Hollins (1).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Florida 100 100 201—5 8 1
Chicago 011 010 000—3 7 1
A.Leiter, Helling (7), Nen (9) and C. Johnson; Trachsel, Casian (7), Wendell (8) and Servais. W—A. Leiter, 2-0. L—Trachsel, 0-2. Sv—Nen (3). HRs—Florida, Sheffield (1). Chicago, Sosa (1).

Houston 000 000 020—2 6 0
Atlanta 001 010 20x—4 10 2
Hampton, R. Springer (7) and Ausmus; Glavine, Bielecki (8), Wohlers (9) and Lopez. W—Glavine, 2-0. L—Hampton, 1-1. Sv—Wohlers (3).

Montreal 001 000 000—1 6 1
St. Louis 010 000 001—2 7 1
Juden, D. Veres (7), Dreil (8), Urbina (8) and Widger; Al.Benes, Petkovsek (6) and Lampkin. W—Petkovsek, 1-1. L—Urbina, 1-1. HR—St. Louis, McGee (1).

New York 202 000 100—5 9 0
Los Angeles 100 200 00x—3 5 1
B.Jones, McMichael (7) and Hundley; Valdes, Bordenkey (7), Dreifort (8), To.Worrell (9) and Piazza. W—B. Jones, 2-0. L—I. Valdes, 1-1. Sv—McMichael (1). HR—Los Angeles, Mondesi (3).

Pittsburgh 000 000 020—2 11 0
San Diego 000 000 000—0 7 0
Cooke, Loiselle (8), Ericks (9) and Kendall; Valenzuela, Bergman (7), Cuppone (9) and Flaherty. W—Cooke, 1-1. L—Bergman, 1-1. S—Ericks (3).

Philadelphia 100 000 100—2 5 2
San Francisco 010 000 000—1 3 1
M.Leiter, Plantenberg (8), Bottalico (8) and Lieberthal; O.Fernandez, Rod (8), Poole (9), Tavarez (9) and R. Wilkins. W—M. Leiter, 1-1. L—O. Fernandez, 1-1. S—Bottalico (3).

Japanese Leagues

CENTRAL LEAGUE

	W	L	T	Pct	GB
Yakult	4	1	0	.800	—
Hanshin	3	1	0	.750	½
Chunichi	2	3	0	.400	2
Yokohama	2	3	0	.400	2
Yomiuri	2	3	0	.400	2
Hiroshima	1	3	0	.250	2½

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Yomiuri 9, Chunichi 1
Yakult 7, Hiroshima 4
Hanshin 9, Yokohama 4

PACIFIC LEAGUE

	W	L	T	Pct	GB
Daiei	3	0	0	1.000	—
Kintetsu	1	0	1	.750	1
Lotte	2	1	1	.625	1
Orix	1	1	0	.500	1½
Seibu	1	2	0	.333	2
Nippon Ham	0	4	0	.000	3½

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Daiei 2, Nippon Ham 0
Orix 9, Seibu 4
Lotte 3, Kintetsu 3, tie.

BASKETBALL

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Miami	58	18	.763	—
x-New York	53	23	.697	5
Orlando	42	34	.553	16
Washington	39	37	.513	19
New Jersey	23	52	.307	34½
Philadelphia	21	54	.280	36½
Boston	13	63	.171	45

CENTRAL DIVISION

y-Chicago	66	10	.868	—
x-Detroit	51	24	.680	14½
x-Atlanta	51	24	.680	14½
x-Charlotte	49	26	.653	16½
Cleveland	39	37	.513	27
Indiana	37	38	.493	28½
Milwaukee	29	46	.387	36½
Toronto	28	48	.368	38

WESTERN CONFERENCE

MIDWEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Utah	58	17	.773	—
x-Houston	52	24	.684	6½
Minnesota	37	39	.487	21½
Dallas	23	53	.303	35½
Denver	20	56	.263	38½
San Antonio	20	56	.263	38½
Vancouver	12	66	.154	47½

PACIFIC DIVISION

x-L.A. Lakers	52	24	.684	—
x-Seattle	52	24	.684	—
x-Portland	45	33	.577	8
x-Phoenix	37	39	.487	15
L.A. Clippers	34	42	.447	18
Sacramento	31	45	.408	21
Golden State	28	48	.368	24

(y-clinched division title)
(x-clinched playoff berth)

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Minnesota 28 18 30 29—107
Phoenix 21 32 29 33—115
M: Marbury 10-18 3-4 27, Garnett 6-14 8-11 20; P: Johnson 7-16 9-9 23, Person 7-8 2-2 23, Manning 6-10 8-12 20. Rebounds—Minnesota 57 (Gugliotta, Garnett 12), Phoenix 49 (Williams 12). Assists—Minnesota 19 (Marbury 6), Phoenix 27 (Kidd 13).

Houston 28 29 29 31—127
L.A. Clippers 27 25 37 28—117
H: Barkley 10-16 13-14 35, Elie 4-9 8-8 18; L.A.: Sealy 10-17 3-3 26, Vaught 8-14 2-4 18, Rebounds—Houston 48 (Barkley 8), Los Angeles 44 (Wright 7). Assists—Houston 21 (Barkley 7), Los Angeles 27 (Barry, Martin 5).

L.A. Lakers 30 35 18 26—109
Golden State 19 16 24 26—85
L.A.: Bryant 9-11 4-7 24, Rooks 6-9 8-8 20; G.S.: Smith 9-21 8-8 26, Mullin 5-8 1-1 11. Rebounds—Los Angeles 48 (Knight, Rooks 7), Golden State 47 (Smith 11). Assists—Los Angeles 22 (Fisher 6), Golden State 25 (Price 7).

Vancouver 23 22 18 29—93
Sacramento 38 16 25 30—109
V: Reeves 10-21 8-9 28, Abdur-Rahim 6-16 7-10 19; S: Richmond 8-12 5-5 26, Williamson 9-11 6-7 24. Rebounds—Vancouver 59 (Reeves 13), Sacramento 43 (Smith 10). Assists—Vancouver 21 (Anthony 9), Sacramento 26 (Hurley 10).

Washington 24 22 20 28—94
Toronto 24 31 23 22—100
W: Cheaney 10-14 0-0 21, Webber 8-17 4-5 21; T: Stoudamire 10-21 7-8 29, Williams 8-18 5-5 24. Rebounds—Washington 51 (Howard, Webber, Muresan 7), Toronto 53 (Rozier 10). Assists—Washington 33 (Strickland 11), Toronto 29 (Stoudamire 13).

Miami 15 30 31 18—94
New Jersey 31 23 19 19—92
M: Mourning 13-20 9-12 35, Hardaway 10-21 0-2 26; N.J.: Kittles 9-18 2-2 23, Gill 9-19 1-1 21. Rebounds—Miami 47 (Mourning 18), New Jersey 54 (Montross 15). Assists—Miami 16 (Hardaway 5), New Jersey 18 (Cassell 8).

Cleveland 25 14 29 25—93
New York 20 24 14 15—73
C: Brandon 11-22 2-2 25, Mills 9-20 0-0 21, Ferry 8-15 2-2 21; N.Y.: Ewing 8-18 1-1 17, Houston 5-11 3-4 14. Rebounds—Cleveland 39 (Mills 12), New York 44 (Johnson, Ewing 10). Assists—Cleveland 26 (Brandon 11), New York 20 (Ward 6).

Orlando 18 27 22 25—97
Milwaukee 25 22 14 21—82
O: Hardaway 11-18 6-7 30, Scott 6-15 4-4 17; M: Robinson 8-20 5-5 22, Baker 9-15 1-1 19. Rebounds—Orlando 46 (Strong 16), Milwaukee 49 (Baker 17). Assists—Orlando 25 (Hardaway 10), Milwaukee 12 (Douglas 4).

Portland 12 31 23 16—82
Dallas 26 19 15 27—87
Pr.C.Robinson 6-16 0-0 15, Trent 4-8 5-5 13; D: Dan Nowitzki 6-14 6-9 22, Bradley 5-18 7-9 17. Rebounds—Portland 45 (Anderson 8), Dallas 57 (Green 14). Assists—Portland 16 (Anderson 9), Dallas 20 (Pack 9).

Denver 29 26 9 26—90
San Antonio 22 22 22 30—96
D: McDyess 5-15 7-12 17, E.Johnson 8-11 0-0 16; S.A.: Williams 14-26 2-4 30, Alexander 7-19 0-0 15. Rebounds—Denver 58 (McDyess 18), San Antonio 76 (Anderson 16). Assists—Denver 23 (Allen 7), San Antonio 22 (Alexander 9).

HOCKEY

NHL Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-New Jersey	44	21	14	102	223	173
x-Philadelphia	44	23	12	100	263	204
x-Florida	33	28	19	85	213	197
x-N.Y. Rangers	37	33	10	84	250	224
Tampa Bay	30	39	10	70	208	240
Washington	30	40	9	69	197	224
N.Y. Islanders	28	39	12	68	231	237

NORTHEAST DIVISION

x-Buffalo	39	28	12	90	229	198
x-Pittsburgh	38	33	8	84	277	265
Montreal	30	35	14	74	241	269
Hartford	31	37	11	73	216	244
Ottawa	28	36	15	71	217	228
Boston	25	45	9	59	226	290

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
z-Dallas	47	24	8	102	246	189
x-Detroit	36	24	17	93	247	188
x-Phoenix	37	36	7	81	230	235
St. Louis	33	35	11	77	227	237
Chicago	32	34	13	77	211	204
Toronto	29	42	8	66	223	264

PACIFIC DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
z-Colorado	48	22	9	105	272	196
x-Anaheim	34	33	13	81	237	229
x-Edmonton	36	35	8	80	243	233
Vancouver	33	40	7	73	246	265
Calgary	32	39	9	73	210	228
Los Angeles	26	42	11	63	205	261
San Jose	26	45	8	60	203	269

(z-clinched division title)
(x-clinched playoff berth)

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Boston 0 0 1—1
Pittsburgh 1 1 1—3
First Period: P-Beranek 3 (Hacher, Nedved) (pp). Second Period: P-Nedved 30 (Hicks, Olczyk) Third Period: B-Wilson 6 (Beers, Roy) 4, P-Olczyk 23 (Lemieux, Francis) (en). Shots on goal: B- 13-17-9—39. P- 11-10-7—28. Goalies: B-Carey, Schafer. P-Labbe.

New Jersey 0 1 1 0—2
Tampa Bay 0 2 0 0—2
First Period: None. Second Period: T-Wiemer 9 (Bradley, Selivanov) 2, N.J.-MacLean 27 (Pederson, Pandolfo) 3, T-Cross 4. Third Period: N.J.-Pandolfo 5 (Gilmour, McKay) Overtime: None. Shots on goal: N.J.- 12-11-11-2—36. T- 10-16-9-4—39. Goalies: N.J.-Brodeur. T-Tabaracci.

Detroit 1 0 1 1—3
Calgary 1 0 1 0—2
First Period: D-Yzerman 20 (Murphy) (pp). 2. C-Stern 7 (Ward, Hulse) Second Period: None. Third Period: D-Yzerman 21 (Murphy, Fedorov) (pp). 4, C-Millen 11 (McInnis, Stillman) Overtime: 5. D-Sandstrom 17 (Lidstrom, Larionov) Shots on goal: D- 9-6-9-1—25. C- 8-8-7-2—25. Goalies: D-Osgood. C-Roloson.

CRICKET

FOURTH TEST
WEST INDIES VS. INDIA
TUESDAY, IN ST JOHN'S, ANTIGUA

West Indies innings: 353-9 (declared)
India innings: 212-2
Match declared a draw

SHARJAH CUP SEMIFINAL
PAKISTAN VS. ZIMBABWE
WEDNESDAY, IN SHARJAH, UAE

Pakistan innings: 151-9 (innings closed)
Zimbabwe innings: 119 all out (40.1 overs)
Pakistan def. Zimbabwe by 32 runs
Pakistan will meet Sri Lanka in the final

ICC TROPHY SEMIFINAL
BANGLADESH VS. SCOTLAND
WEDNESDAY, IN KUALA LUMPUR

Bangladesh innings: 243-7 (50 overs)
Scotland innings: 171 all out (44.5 overs)
Bangladesh def. Scotland by 72 runs.

SOCCER

UEFA CUP
SEMIFINALS, FIRST LEG

Tenerife 1, Schalke 0
Internazionale 3, Monaco 1

WORLD CUP QUALIFYING

Jordan 0, United Arab Emirates 0.

TRANSITIONS

BASEBALL
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL
AMERICAN LEAGUE

DETROIT—Signed 1B Bob Hamelin to minor-league contract and assigned him to Toledo, IL.

SEATTLE—Bought contract of RHP Dennis Martinez. Designated RHP Salomon Torres for assignment.

TEXAS—Put OF Warren Newson on 15-day disabled list, retroactive to April 5. Bought contract of INF Dave Silvestri from Oklahoma City, AA.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

CINCINNATI—Acquired RHP Scott Klingenbeck from Minnesota Twins for future considerations and assigned him to Indianapolis, AA.

ST. LOUIS—Put LHP Lance Painter on 15-day disabled list, retroactive to April 5. Called up C Danny Sheaffer from Louisville, AA.

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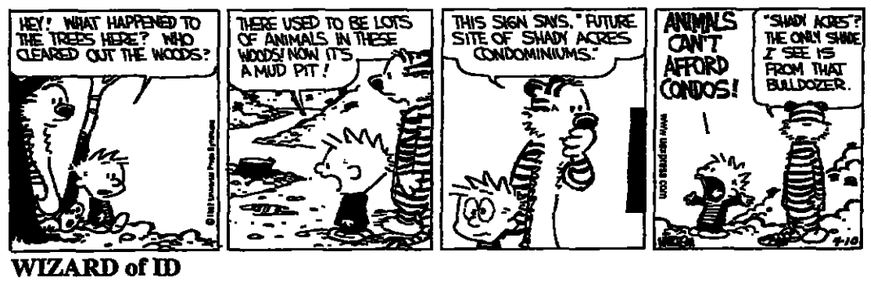

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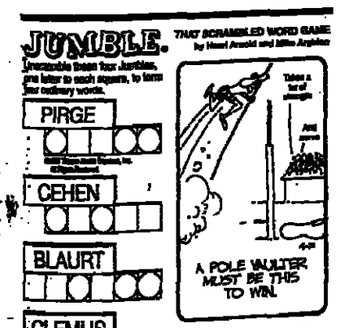
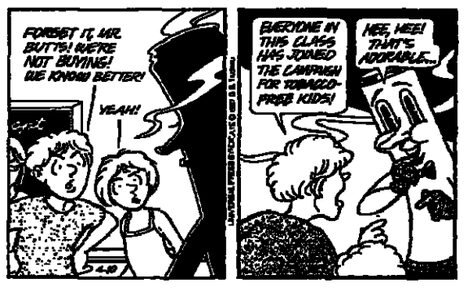


Yesterday's Jumbles: BORAX KEYED FEWEST HALLOW
Answer: Why the actor refused his dinner after — SHE WAS "BOOKED"

BEETLE BAILEY

NON SEQUITUR

DOONESBURY



BLONDIE

ART BUCHWALD

Damage Control

WASHINGTON — What the country needs more than anything else right now is a U.S. Secretary of Damage Control — someone who can step in as soon as the political alarm bells go off, and who can put out the fire before too many administration officials start jumping off the Washington Monument.

Buchwald

My nominee for the job is Martha Stewart, who has made her living telling Americans how to avoid burning their hot biscuits, and how to give oomph to their rock gardens.

I envisage the position as follows — Martha has an office next to the president's with an Internet hot line to Al Gore.

□

As Damage Control Secretary, she has more power than Madeleine Albright at the State Department.

When Martha arrives at her desk, her impeccable sense of smell alerts her to something in the air. "Is that the aroma of coffee?" she asks.

Her secretary confirms that it is. Martha storms into the Oval Office and admonishes the president: "I thought I told you, 'NO MORE COFFEE KLATCHES.' "

The president says, "I was just making it for five guys from Shanghai who want to give the DNC a million dollars."

"I don't care. I've told you a hundred times that you can't have coffee and damage control at the same time."

"But they've come all the way from China and they haven't had a decent cup in months."

□

Martha turns off the coffee percolator on the president's desk. The president says, "Fine. Now you go up to the Lincoln Bedroom and break the news to them that they have to go down the street to Starbucks if they want some decent java."

Martha shrieks, "What are they doing in the Lincoln bedroom?"

"They promised me a million dollars if they could sleep there and have their picture taken with me in my White House bathrobe. I threw in the coffee as a bonus."

"Mr. President, with all due respect, I can't be your Secretary of Damage Control if you keep letting strangers sleep all over the second floor. You promised me that if I took the job you'd stop fund-raising."

The president said, "But the heat is on with the fund raising and you have to help me out. If I can't give coffee to potential donors, or let them sleep in the Lincoln bedroom, the only thing I have left to offer is a ride on Air Force One. The trouble with that is, the last donor who took the plane never brought it back."

The Gift of Poetry

Reuters

MIAMI — Last-minute tax filers in seven U.S. cities are in line for a treat that may reflect their thoughts at tax time: "April is the cruelest month." The Academy of American Poets will give out free copies of T.S. Eliot's "The Waste Land" to those who line up at post offices between 10 P.M. and midnight April 15 to mail tax forms on time. "April is the cruelest month" is the poem's opening line.

Wynton Marsalis' Road to the Pulitzer

By Mike Zwerin
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — After a French composer of his acquaintance turned down the Legion of Honor on political grounds, Erik Satie, in a variation of an oft-told tale, remarked that the problem was not so much turning down the prize as having been offered it in the first place.

On Monday, Wynton Marsalis became the first jazz composer to win a Pulitzer prize for music for his extended composition "Blood on the Fields" for jazz band and three singers. It portrays the history of blacks in America.

"Oratorio is the word people use for it," Marsalis told Mary Campbell of The Associated Press. "It's about the relationship of a man and a woman, a man's relationship to change and an attitude towards injustice. It's about the power of forgiveness — which doesn't mean acceptance. It uses a lot of different styles from things that have been done in jazz music."

Musically, he is exactly the sort of person the people who award such prizes can be comfortable with. A conservative.

He wants to conserve the values of the straight-ahead jazz tradition and revive them in the music of the present. Taking into account the vapidity on the best-seller charts, this is a good fight. It's the exclusivity involved, the idea that there is only one tradition to uphold, that causes some people problems.

The prize is not for originality. Marsalis never broke new ground and it is doubtful he would claim that he did, although recently he has begun to investigate new forms. There would be no "Blood on the Fields" without Marsalis' main man Duke Ellington.

Ellington was the first to write extended suites for big band, to treat a big band like a symphony orchestra; and he often incorporated multiple voices. Like Ellington, Marsalis organizes jazz timbres and improvisation into an orchestral framework.

Somebody once said that all new ideas go through three stages — the joke, the threat and the obvious, and you would have been laughed at had you described the Duke Ellington who led the band at the Cotton Club in Harlem in the 1920s as "one of America's greatest composers." Ellington's honors came after his nobility was obvious.

In the early days, Louis Armstrong ribbed Bird and Dizzy by singing something about poor little boppers who have lost their way.

Ed Reilley/The Associated Press

Marsalis is the first jazz composer to win a Pulitzer Prize for music.

A joke, right? Thelonious Monk was literally laughed off bandstands at first. Who's that funny piano player? Now " 'Round Midnight" is elevator music. And so on. Musically, Wynton Marsalis was born in the threat stage.

Recently, I interviewed Marsalis during the Jazz in Marciac festival. We chatted afterward and spoke about how positive it was to bring the music to the nice folks from the French countryside down there. After he contrasted it to the poverty, violence and ugliness in American cities, I mentioned in passing that Miles Davis's album "Tutu" is the perfect reflection of today's urban environment.

Oops! It had slipped my mind, how virulent he was in his dislike of Miles's rock period. He had been going on and on about it for years. There was a baleful look and he said: "I guess we'll just have to disagree about that."

More illustrations of that mindset. Conservatives hate the bass guitar. Duke Ellington never used a bass guitar. Ergo, the bass guitar has no business in jazz. Period. Some musicians in the tradition are so conservative that they do not believe in amplifying an acoustic bass. A bassist who needs the help of artificial amplification is a wimp.

In the same vein, so-called "Euro-Jazz" is considered an oxymoron. Jazz that is not blues-based is unworthy of the name. The people who play Euro-Jazz are by definition mostly white. Sure, some of them can play, but they are, you know, different. It is not a coincidence that Chet Baker was more appreciated in Europe. A young black saxophonist today is unlikely to be acquainted with the work of the late Art Pepper. And so on.

There is something just a bit too conveniently commercial about Marsalis' brand of Ellingtonia. His septet performed in the prestigious Theatre des Champs-Elysees a few years ago. Spiffed-up old-time licks were followed by wah-wah mute solos. There is nothing like a trumpet or trombone with a wah-wah mute to bring down a house full of people who can afford to pay $40 a ticket.

Yes there is. For all its intellectual sheen, the music referred to above can be compared to a saxophonist honking or squealing in one of those packed Dixieland clubs that cater to busloads of Swedish and Japanese tourists on Bourbon Street or in Saint-Germain-des-Pres.

On the other hand, a lot of critics are jealous of Marsalis' success and threatened by his power. As director of the Lincoln Center Jazz Program, Marsalis is pretty much the king of New York. It sticks in their gorge to admit that — whether playing jazz or classical (he has won Grammys for both) — he is a trumpet player and a half.

Ironically, his trumpet playing can be best appreciated in the simplest context. An after-hours jam session, for example, or playing a quiet ballad like "Lush Life." He has his own sound, you could pick him out blindfolded. He is qualitatively different from the competition.

He is also a wonderful PR man, in the most positive sense of the term. Because of him, often starring him, jazz is increasingly a front page story and can be heard on prime time radio and television. He represents respectability with a soul. He is to be thanked for whatever truth there is in all of the recent "revival" talk. He is also a natural-born teacher. The way he conveys the fun of improvisation to children is inspirational.

"Blood on the Fields" is about the African-American experience. In the big picture, it is nothing but positive that an articulate 35-year-old African-American jazzman has won a Pulitzer for dealing with this subject. Not that many years ago, we would have complained about the impossibility of such a thing.

Let's take our hats off to him. Our world is a better place with Wynton Marsalis around. The question, however, remains: What would Erik Satie say?

Paul White/The Associated Press

EVITA ON THE ROAD — The actress Ester Goris and director Juan Desanzo at the screening of "Eva Peron" at the Madrid film festival.

PEOPLE

ONE DAY **Kilauren Gibb** was surfing the Internet when a picture of the singer **Joni Mitchell** convinced her that the musician was the birth mother she had sought for years, the Toronto Star reported. Gibb, who has just returned to Toronto with her 3-year-old son after a 19-day reunion with Mitchell at the singer's Los Angeles home, started her search with only a few facts about her natural mother. But it was not until she surfed to Mitchell's home page and found 14 points of comparison that she was sure she was the daughter of the Canadian-born folk singer. Mitchell explained to the Los Angeles Times the reason for her giving the child up for adoption: "The main thing at the time was to conceal it. The scandal was so intense. A daughter could do nothing more disgraceful. It ruined you in a social sense. You have no idea what the stigma was. It was like you murdered somebody."

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King Carl XVI Gustaf's classic cherry-red 1966 GTO convertible failed its annual inspection on eight counts, most notably weak brakes, loose steering and emitting too much carbon monoxide, the newspaper Expressen reported. The king made a splash last year when he drove the car through the streets of Stockholm with **Crown Princess Victoria** perched on the back to celebrate her graduation from high school. He has a month to make the car fit for the road.

□

The parents of sextuplets born last month in a New York City suburb had one less expense to worry about — college tuition — after the State University of New York at Stony Brook offered free tuition to all six, who would graduate in the class of 2015. The offer, four years of school for six students, is worth $81,600 today, university officials said. "Now I don't have to get that third or fourth job," joked the babies' father, **Rocco Boniello**, a technician for the Nynex telephone company. **Beverly Boniello**, their mother, is a mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service. The four girls and two boys were born at the university's hospital in Stony Brook, a New York City suburb, on March 24. They remain in an incubator.

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The yacht that once belonged to the bankrupt French tycoon **Bernard Tapie** is being sold by court order for $6.3 million, barely half the asking price. Tapie renovated the 74-meter (245 foot) Phocea at great expense, but he was convicted for fraudulently passing off the costs as business expenses and received a six-month sentence for tax evasion. The Marseille law firm that was instructed to sell the boat by a Paris court said Wednesday that it had negotiated a sale for 36.5 million francs to Tranquil Limited, a private Virgin Islands company, which will be final in eight days if the court approves.

□

Sheila Rauch Kennedy, the ex-wife of Representative **Joseph P. Kennedy**, says she has appealed the Catholic Church's decision to grant them an annulment. She wrote in her upcoming book, "Shattered Faith: A Woman's Struggle to Stop the Catholic Church From Annulling Her Marriage," that she cannot accept the annulment because she took their 12-year marriage seriously. The couple — he Catholic, she Episcopalian — had twin sons during the marriage and divorced in 1991.

□

Almost 40 years after his graduation in 1958, the City College of New York is naming a new center after retired General **Colin Powell**. The Colin L. Powell Center for Public Policy Study will open at the college this fall.

□

Andie MacDowell and 300 neighbors jammed a public hearing to protest plans to run an oil and gas pipeline through their pristine Ninemile Valley community in Montana. MacDowell said it was "difficult to comprehend how you could even contemplate" running the pipeline over a mountain pass inaccessible for six to eight months each year, even by snowmobile. A leak could go undetected for all of those months, the actress said.

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